



BABIES' SECRET SIGN LANGUAGE

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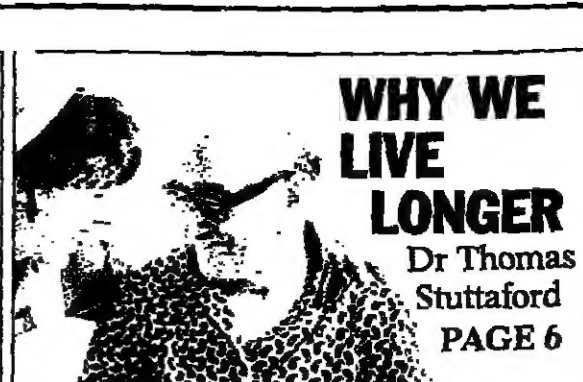
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Labour 'prepared to be isolated'

Blair echoes Tory threat to disrupt EU

By Philip Webster, Arthur Leathley and Polly Newton

JOHN MAJOR and Tony Blair yesterday threatened to block a treaty reforming the European Union unless action is taken to prevent foreign trawlers plundering British fishing grounds.

The Labour leader was accused of another policy U-turn and of following in Mr Major's footsteps after saying that he was prepared to disrupt the Amsterdam summit where an updated version of the Maastricht treaty is due to be signed in June. "Where Britain's interests are at stake we are perfectly prepared to be isolated," he said.

As European fisheries ministers met in Luxembourg to approve conservation measures that could force a one third reduction in the UK fleet, the issue dominated election campaigning. Labour's line toughened as the day went on, while Paddy Ashdown said that he would scrap the common fisheries policy and reshape it with regional administration.

Mr Blair's remarks prompted Mr Major to claim that Labour had made another policy change between breakfast and lunch. "They change every day and everything. For them nothing is sacred." The stance was "a knee-jerk reaction of a party intellectually at sea grabbing at policy initiatives like a drowning man at a life-belt".

Mr Major had earlier been campaigning in marginal Tory seats in Cornwall, where fishermen have been hit hardest by quota-hopping, the practice by which foreign vessels legally buy up British fish licences and take a share of the UK catch allowance.

He said: "The inter-governmental conference won't come to a successful conclusion until we are satisfied that among other objectives the problem of quota is resolved satisfactorily. It can't come to a solution without unanimity."

British ministers are determined to remove 150 foreign-owned ships, mostly Spanish, from the register of British fishing boats. They claim that that would offer greater op-



INSIDE

It's not a big thing round here. We regard it as a necessary evil every five years or so

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opportunities for British fishermen and help to conserve stocks.

In an early morning BBC interview Gavin Strang, Labour's agriculture spokesman, said that his party had not ruled out refusing to agree conclusions in Amsterdam because the cuts were "utterly unacceptable". A similar line was taken by Gordon Brown at his morning news conference, although he claimed that Labour was more capable of getting decisions in Europe "because we are more positive about our negotiating stand".

Then Mr Blair told BBC Radio 4's *World at One* programme that he was prepared to be isolated in Europe if British interests were at stake. "We certainly have not ruled out holding up IGC business in order to get the right changes to fishing policy that are in Britain's interest,"

he said. "What we don't want is a repeat of the Conservative disasters over BSE and the beef war where they thumped the table and had all sorts of tough rhetoric but got absolutely nothing done."

"We don't want vacuous sabre-rattling. We are perfectly prepared to take a very tough line on this indeed. But we've got to make sure the tough line works. What the fishing industry in the West Country needs is a Government that will stand up for British interest, fight hard for them and win."

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, led the new U-turn charges, saying: "Tony Blair has said he's quite happy that Britain should be isolated in Europe if that is necessary to protect Britain's interests. A year or so ago he said 'Under my leadership I will never allow Britain to be isolated in Europe'. How can you trust somebody who says one thing during the election which is totally different to what he said a year ago?"

Mr Blair had said that he would be prepared to use Britain's veto over fisheries, said Mr Rifkind. "Yet we have in the Labour manifesto a clear proposal to abandon British veto in half-a-dozen different areas. How can he use the veto on one occasion when he's proposing to abandon it simultaneously?"

Mr Ashdown said: "What we are seeing from the Prime Minister and the Conservatives is a replay of the futile and famous beef war, in which you bluster at home for political purposes and end up backing down abroad — a replay of BSE with fish." The Common Fisheries Policy had been a disaster, but only the Liberal Democrats were committed to its abolition.

In Luxembourg, the Spanish fish minister Loyola de Palacio fuelled the controversy by making clear that she would fight all the way to safeguard Spain's right to register boats in Britain — in spite of British complaints that the practice was intolerable. "I respect the free market," she declared.



Fitz, Labour's new political star, a three-year-old bulldog — a none-too-bright breed that Europe wants banned

Fitz off his leash for Labour

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent



John Bull and bulldog: white supremacist duo

THE British bulldog will tonight make a dramatic comeback as the symbol of the nation's fighting spirit in a daring attempt by Labour to steal the patriotic high ground from the Tories.

A three-year old bulldog called Fitz is the star of Labour's latest party election broadcast which attempts to hammer home the message that Britain can do better under Labour.

The bulldog, with its Churchillian associations, will be paraded as the image of New Labour in what some may regard as the ultimate U-turn. Labour strategists have turned a blind eye to the fact that the Referendum Party have already used a bulldog in their cinema advertising and that the European Commission has been repeatedly trying to ban the breed because it has too many physical defects.

They have refused to learn the lesson of King, the lion used by the Conservatives to portray John Major as the lionheart of Europe — now to be found on the cutting floor

because he was too much of a wimp.

But Peter Mandelson, Labour's campaign manager is unashamedly hooked on the animal. "I love the bulldog. I think the public will love it."

Asked whether it would be used again in the campaign, he smiled, adding: "I think they will demand more of it."

He brushed aside references to Churchill with "next question" as he went on to explain why the bulldog is now in Labour's possession. "The Labour Party is the patriotic party. New Labour is the party of one nation and the bulldog is a way of saying this. It is an animal with a strong sense of history and tradition. But like Britain today it is tired and without direction."

The election broadcast starts with the bulldog looking heavy, tired, listless and bored. It sinks to the ground, its huge head buried in a morass of mud and fat, as if never to be stirred again.

But the film then switches to Tony Blair, sporting the short hair cut typical of someone 20

years younger, talking about how he has transformed the party. As he starts talking about law and order — "we will be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime" — Fitz pricks up his ears and leaps to his feet as if this is the first time he has heard the slogan.

As the Labour leader starts talking about health and education, Fitz starts straining at the leash raring to go. "£100 million on cutting waiting lists"

Continued on page 2, col 7

Holiday airlines shamed into flying on time

By Harvey Elliott, AIR CORRESPONDENT

HOLIDAYMAKERS are being offered a charter airline punctuality league table to help them to avoid spending frustrating hours in overcrowded airports.

While some charter carriers suffered only short delays during last summer's peak holiday period, others routinely kept passengers waiting for hours, according to an official airline watchdog.

Now for the first time the CAA-funded Air Transport Users Council (ATUC) has published a league table in the hope of shaming some carriers into improving their timekeeping.

"The public has the right to this information," said Ian Hamer, the council's chairman. "The figures show a huge difference in performance between airlines. Only one flight in 20 is delayed by more than an hour on the best airline. But on the worst, two out of every three flights are an hour late and the average delay is almost three hours."

"We want people to realise there is more to choosing a holiday than the closeness of the hotel to the beach. If you choose the wrong airline the chances are you will spend a day of your holiday in airport departure lounges."

According to the ATUC the most punctual airline is the Spanish-owned Vivia, part of the Iberia Group, closely followed by British Midland and British Airways, both of whom often supply jets on short-term contracts to package holiday companies. Significantly all three are an integral part of a large scheduled airline organisation.

Bottom of the table is the Belgian airline Challenge Air, which has a staff of 72 and two leased McDonnell Douglas DC 10-30 tri-jets. Last summer

Continued on page 2, col 5

Atherton leads Ashes fight

Michael Atherton was reappointed England cricket captain for this summer's Test and one-day series against Australia. He should break Peter May's 41-Test captaincy record at Lord's. Alec Stewart was named England player of the year. Page 52



Terry Marsh stands down

Terry Marsh, the former boxer, has stood down as the Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Basildon in Essex after being charged with obtaining property and a service by deception.

Mr Marsh, 30, said last night that he would vigorously defend himself. The charges relate to tuition fees and a grant application made by him while he was a student between May 1995 and December 1996. He is expected to appear before Thames magistrates on May 20.

Millions in South facing curbs as water firms draw up drought plan

By Nick Nuttall, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BLANKET water restrictions affecting millions of people in southeast and southern England are being drawn up by water companies under a new emergency agreement to fight the drought.

Talks between the Government's Environment Agency and several of the key water firms have been held to head off widespread damage to rivers, streams and wetlands. The plan calls for the simultaneous phasing in of restrictions, such as sprinkler and hosepipe bans, even in areas where supplies are still relatively plentiful.

The agency and companies believe co-ordinated action is becoming vital to save wildlife, rivers and streams as they confront the driest two-year period for more than 200

years. Aquifer levels are at a record low in many places, and rivers, including the Thames, are running dry.

Until now, water companies have introduced sprinkler and hosepipe bans on a company-by-company basis rather than regionally. They believe that the new strategy will reduce customer anger and help water companies to avoid a political and customer backlash after three years of drought.

Rain this winter has failed to replenish underground supplies. Across England, all but one of 33 major rivers are suffering, with some at less than a third of their average depth. April has seen hardly a drop of rain in southern and southeast England.

Ray Tennant, chairman of the Water Companies Association who has been in talks with the agency, said yesterday: "We are getting to danger levels. If the Thames drops

any more, there could be real problems as there are so many big intakes from north of Reading down to London."

The news comes as Sutton and East Surrey disclosed that it was poised to bring in a sprinkler ban in the Banstead, Carshalton and Sutton areas covering around 250,000 people. The move underlines how, even in areas where anti-leakage standards are high, drought conditions are undermining supplies. Sutton and East Surrey leaks about 15 per cent of its supply from the mains, making it the most leak-proof firm in England and Wales. This compares with Thames Water, which leaks more than 35 per cent of its water.

Yesterday the company said that sprinkler bans could be invoked within two weeks. "The only thing that could delay the decision is heavy and steady rainfall. But the weather

is not talking about rainfall," a spokesman said. The move, which is being carried out independently, is expected to coincide with the launch of the new regional strategy.

Mr Tennant, also a senior director at Mid Southern and also South East water company, said: "We think that if all the companies in a region act at the same time, it will indicate that it is not so much incompetence of a single water company, but a more general situation. It should stop people picking us off one by one."

The strategy was near to being agreed and a decision should be made this month. "We are pretty close to this approach for both the South and the Thames region. With the backing of the Environment Agency, people will realise this is an environmental rather than economically driven thing," he said.

The Times on the Internet
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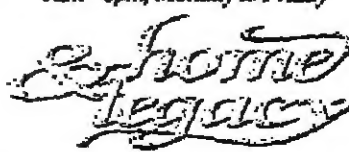
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McColgan gives girl of 5 her marathon medal

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A LITTLE girl was yesterday proudly showing her schoolfriends the London Marathon runners-up medal given her by Liz McColgan only minutes after the race.

In a rare moment of emotion in the harsh world of international athletics, McColgan swapped her prize for a Daffy Duck medal from a cereal packet that Alexandra Sandercock was planning to give her mother at the end of the race on Sunday. The five-year-old was so upset at the international athlete's defeat she gave it to her instead.

McColgan, who was beaten by one second by Joyce Chepchumba of Kenya, who finished in 2 hours, 26 minutes and 51 seconds, said yesterday: "I don't know who she was but she came out of nowhere and

said I had run a great race and wanted to give me something. She offered me her Daffy Duck medal and I said 'Thank you very much'. I felt I had let everyone down and it clearly meant so much to her."

"She hung it around my neck and I gave her a kiss. So I gave her my trophy in return. I had not even looked at it, someone had just hung it round my neck."

The former world 10,000 metres champion said that Alexandra reminded her of her own daughter Elisha, who is also five. "She had blonde hair and was wearing a little pinafore."

"I couldn't believe it. She looked so innocent. It was such a beautiful gesture from such a young girl."

Alexandra's mother, There-

sa, 32, who ran her first marathon — in 4 hours 54 minutes — to raise money for the Royal National Institute for the Blind, said: "Alexandra had brought the medal all the way from our home to give to me at the end. But I still got a medal as an official finisher. It's smaller than for second place and I am not surprised since Liz ran twice as fast as me."

"Alexandra was telling everyone on the way home that she had got Liz's medal and she went to bed with it on her pillow alongside her teddy bears. She has not let it out of her sight since she received it."

Her father, Kevin, who was looking after Alexandra during Sunday's marathon, said yesterday: "Thanks to Liz's daughter is on cloud nine. Never in a million years did we expect this to happen."

Alexandra took the trophy to Bromsbury St Mary's Church of England primary school, in Lechworth, Hertfordshire, to show the other pupils and, last night, she went to bed with Liz's medal still safely beside her.

□ The man who died during the marathon has been named as James Herbert, 44, from Plymouth.

Marathon times, pages 22 and 23
McColgan's choice, page 49



Alexandra with the medal yesterday. "It was a beautiful gesture," said McColgan



Liz McColgan and Alexandra swap their medals

Richard Clapham: an apology

Our report (March 8) about the RSPCA investigation into the treatment of horses at Blue House Farm, Mattingley, said that Richard Clapham, the son of the farm's owner, Jennifer Clapham, had been interviewed by police and faced prosecution for cruelty. This was incorrect. Mr Clapham was not interviewed by police and never faced any threat of prosecution. We apologise for this error.

Britons in grenade blast hope for early return

By LIN JENKINS

TWO Britons who were hurt when they shielded their wives from a grenade blast in Addis Ababa are hoping to return home today.

John Bown and Blair Davies are recovering well after undergoing surgery for multiple shrapnel wounds. Janet Duff, a British Embassy nurse who visited them in hospital yesterday, said their condition was improving steadily. "They are able to chat and they are feeling a lot better than they did on Saturday night. Things are looking good for a full recovery, but they are still in quite a lot of pain from their injuries."

The Foreign Office yesterday re-



Blair Davies, left, and John Bown have multiple shrapnel wounds

vised its guidelines for visitors to Ethiopia because of the grenade attack, one of two in the capital on Saturday. Travellers were urged to be vigilant but the Foreign Office stopped

short of placing Ethiopia on the list of countries which it recommends are visited only on essential business. Mr Bown and Mr Davies, former policemen, were injured as they dined with their wives at a restaurant popular with foreigners and wealthy locals. They threw themselves across the grenade when it landed near their table, saving their wives and other diners from all but minor injuries.

"They were in Ethiopia to work for RIPA International, a consultancy contracted by the Overseas Development Administration to help the country's police change from a paramilitary force to a civilian operation. Lawrence Eaton, director of RIPA, said yesterday: "It was a brave thing to

do. We're now working hard to get them back to Britain. We have been asked to provide wheelchairs, not as bad, at least, as stretchers."

Mr Bown, 53, a Methodist lay preacher in his home town of Matlock, Derbyshire, was a superintendent before joining Group 4. His sister-in-law, Sylvia Bown, 55, said: "His first instinct would be to protect his wife — and anybody else, for that matter. He is an ordinary man who would go about trying to do the best he could for his family."

Mr Davies, a father of three, was formerly a superintendent in Northamptonshire. He was leading the year-long project in Ethiopia, which was due to end next month.

Airlines 'shamed' into flying on time

Continued from page 1

65.2 per cent of its flights from British airports were delayed by more than an hour at an average delay time of 167.4 minutes.

Christian Dumortier, the general manager of Challenge Air, last night admitted that last summer was "a mess". He said: "We were asked to step in to provide aircraft for a wide range of British tour operators left stranded after Excalibur folded... we were asked to carry out a short-haul programme on a long-haul aircraft and it proved almost impossible."

British charter airlines are by far the least expensive in Europe. They keep prices down by filling every available seat, packing as many holidaymakers in as possible and operating aircraft on three "rotations" a day.

French and German airlines fly only two round trips to holiday destinations a day, have fewer seats and do not mind taking off if some have not been sold. The problem is that the prices they charge German tour operators and holidaymakers are much higher than British customers are prepared to pay.

Bob Parker-Eaton, deputy managing director of Britannia, which has been fighting the use of foreign "flags of convenience" airlines, last night predicted that this summer the delays will be much less than last year. "It should not be a problem this year because the market capacity is in line with demand," he said. Britannia came fourth in the league table with 7.1 per cent of its flights delayed by more than an hour and an average delay time of 16.8 minutes.

"There are no requirements for tour operators or sent-only companies to specify which airline people will be flying on," he said.

"The operator tries to sell seats and then goes out to lease an aircraft once he has sold enough to fill it. If that aircraft is then brought in from another country it will not find a take off slot at a congested airport or a landing slot at the other end. No wonder their schedules are then thrown into chaos."

British Midland, second in the league table with 6 per cent of its flights delayed for an hour or more last summer, provided four aircraft throughout the summer for First Choice.

"Punctuality is our second most important priority after safety," said a spokesman.

THE BEST AND WORST

Airline	Total Flights	% more than the last	Average Delay (mins)	Rank
1 VIVA (Spain)	680	4.9	18.5	2
2 British Midland (GB)	417	8.0	15.4	1
3 British Airways (GB)	582	6.7	30.7	11
4 Britannia Airways (GB)	15679	7.1	18.8	3
5 Air Transat (Can)	923	9.4	28.5	8
6 Spanair (Spain)	672	10.6	30.1	10
7 Sunair (Sweden)	951	10.6	29.2	7
8 Air UK (GB)	352	11.7	28.5	9
9 Air Europa (Spain)	1369	12.4	25.9	6
10 Air 2000 (GB)	13884	12.8	22.3	4
11 Onur Air (Turkey)	863	14.8	38.8	15
12 Futura Airlines (Bel)	643	15.1	24.2	5
13 European Air Charter (GB)	486	15.8	35.1	14
14 Airworld Aviation Ltd (GB)	1493	17.3	32.7	12
15 Sabre Airways Ltd (GB)	2658	18.2	48.4	19
16 Oesla Int. (Spain)	100	18.5	33.5	13
17 Monarch Airlines (GB)	14144	19.8	39.0	17
18 British World Airlines Ltd (GB)	897	20.2	43.4	18
19 Airoute Int Airways Ltd (GB)	12751	20.4	38.7	16
20 Leisure Int Airways Ltd (GB)	711	23.1	49.4	20
21 Air UK Leisure (GB)	2535	23.2	58.1	21
22 Caledonian Airways (GB)	5577	28.4	71.9	24
23 Excalibur Airways (GB)	120	30.0	80.2	25
24 Air Operations Europe	108	35.2	62.8	22
25 Air Atlanta Iceland (Iceland)	854	35.4	91.0	27
26 Transwede Leisure (Sweden)	355	38.6	70.5	23
27 All Leisure Airlines Ltd (GB)	789	46.3	86.0	26
28 Transatl Airways Ltd (Ireland)	290	53.8	138.5	28
29 Challenge Air (Belgium)	244	65.2	167.4	29
TOTAL ALL AIRLINES	91076	16.6	35.1	

Ulster's BSE-free claim at risk

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

ULSTER'S claim to be able to guarantee that its beef comes from herds free from BSE has been undermined by allegations of widespread fraud in farm subsidies. Police have been asked to investigate reports that farmers have been illegally claiming headage subsidies on thousands of imported beef cattle which are not eligible for aid.

Northern Ireland prides itself on its computerised cattle database which supposedly makes it possible to trace every animal to its farm of origin. This should enable officials to guarantee that animals have never passed through a herd with "mad cow" disease.

Because no other part of Britain has such a system, farmers in Ulster have argued that they should be the first to benefit from any relaxation of the European Union ban on British beef exports.

A spokesman for the Department of Agriculture in Northern Ireland said: "We are aware that subsidies may have been improperly claimed on some animals, though not on anything like the scale claimed. One official in the department has been suspended and the Royal Ulster Constabulary has been asked to look into the allegations."

According to press reports in Northern Ireland, headage subsidies worth £18 to £19 each may have been illegally claimed on up to 25,000 cattle. Those involved in the scam are alleged to have imported the animals from the Republic of Ireland and removed the animals' identification ear tags, replacing them with "recycled" tags issued by the Northern Ireland authorities.

Greer McCollum, the president of the Ulster Farmers' Union, said: "If anything like this is happening, it should be stamped out at once. Any illegal over-claiming of subsidy means that payments to all farmers will be reduced. The reports are grossly exaggerated. Without our computer tracing system, these irregularities would not have come to light so quickly, which shows the strength of the system."

Hopes rise for cancer vaccine

Evidence that a vaccine can produce immunity to cancer has come from an eight-year trial by researchers in the United States.

Using a genetically engineered vaccine on 18 patients seriously ill with kidney cancer, they found that there were measurable immune responses in every case, even though there were no signs of remission. Many died within a year of being treated.

The findings by a team from the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center in Baltimore, Maryland, are reported in the *Journal of Cancer Research*, published today.

Head returns

A head teacher who was suspended after being accused of slapping two 9-year-olds will return to work today following a decision by the Crown Prosecution Service not to press charges. Kevin Crabb, head of Wayne Primary School, near Hull, which has 60 pupils, may still face disciplinary action.

Fire talks resume

Talks aimed at averting strikes by firefighters in Essex were adjourned last night and will resume today. Ken Cameron, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, met leaders of Essex County Council for more than five hours in an attempt to settle a dispute over £15 million of spending cuts.

Closed hearing

A High Court hearing of the case against Rune Haug, the Norwegian football agent accused of alleged transfer irregularities, will be heard behind closed doors. Michael Sells, the judicial examiner, decided yesterday. Evidence will be recorded for use in his trial in Norway later this year.

Desert triumph

Chris Moon, 34, who lost his right arm and leg while clearing landmines in Mozambique, returned home to Richmond, southwest London, last night after completing the six-day, 137-mile Marathon of the Sands across the Sahara. He finished 233rd out of more than 350 starters, taking 47 hours.

Labour's bulldog

Continued from page 1

... our top three priorities are education, education, education... Fitz can hardly contain himself. "I am not going to promise anything I can't deliver."

"I am a British patriot and I want the best out of Europe for Britain," he declares at one stage. This is too much. With one bound, the leash breaks and Fitz goes off... we are not quite sure where.

Mr Mandelson explains that the idea originated last autumn when Mr Blair had delivered his party conference speech and decided to "reclaim" the Union Jack, which had been "used and abused by the Conservatives" as if they owned it.

The message was unerringly positive, he said. "It is a completely New Labour dog."

The bulldog has often been coupled with John Bull — who was established as a representative of English stock early in the 18th century when Dr John Arbuthnot's *Law is a Bottomless Pit* was republished under the more popular name, *The History of John Bull*. The pair had their heyday in the jingoism of Victorian England, when Englishmen were while supremacists par excellence. Further cause for potential discomfort for New Labour here in modern multicultural Britain.

It is worth recalling, too, that in 1994 a professor of psychology in Canada in a book called *The Intelligence of Dogs* ranked the bulldog the third most stupid among 133 breeds.

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Killer face after 16

Major-General Gerard Wright, who was shot dead by a British soldier in Northern Ireland, is being buried in a private ceremony. The soldier, who was charged with the murder, is being held in a military prison. The general's family is demanding a public funeral. The British Army is refusing the demand. The general was killed in a ambush in 1992. He was a senior officer in the British Army. The soldier who shot him was a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force. The soldier was charged with the murder of the general. The soldier is being held in a military prison. The soldier is being held in a military prison. The soldier is being held in a military prison.

Queue-jump 'hit general taxi rank

A RETIRED Major-General Gerard Wright, who was shot dead by a British soldier in Northern Ireland, is being buried in a private ceremony. The soldier, who was charged with the murder, is being held in a military prison. The general's family is demanding a public funeral. The British Army is refusing the demand. The general was killed in a ambush in 1992. He was a senior officer in the British Army. The soldier who shot him was a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force. The soldier was charged with the murder of the general. The soldier is being held in a military prison. The soldier is being held in a military prison. The soldier is being held in a military prison.

Stars to carry o

OWEN DIANE Paul Merton has been named as the first of a line of celebrities to carry the Olympic torch. Merton is a well-known radio personality. He will be carrying the torch in London. The torch will be carried by a line of celebrities. The torch will be carried by a line of celebrities. The torch will be carried by a line of celebrities. The torch will be carried by a line of celebrities. The torch will be carried by a line of celebrities.

Stars to carry o

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Broadmoor escaper recaptured in Ireland

Killer faces extradition after 16 years on run

BY NICHOLAS WATT
AND RICHARD FORD

A TRIPLE killer was remanded in custody in Dublin yesterday after being recaptured in the Irish Republic where he had ended up after escaping from Broadmoor top-security hospital in 1981.

Alan Reeve, 49, originally from Colchester, Essex, was arrested earlier this month in Cork after British police served an extradition warrant over his escape from Broadmoor in 1981. His crimes involved killing a 15-year-old boy, throttling a fellow patient at Broadmoor and shooting dead a Dutch police officer.

Reeve had been living in the Republic for more than two years. He shared a terraced council house in the Gurranebraher area of north Cork with Anne Murphy, 40, who gave birth to their first child two months ago.

Reeve, who had been working as a typesetter at the Cork Women's Poetry Circle, was refused bail in spite of a tearful plea from his fiancée that he was "friendly, caring, loving and dependable".

Reeve, who completed a sociology degree while in Broadmoor and trained as a lawyer while in a Dutch jail for killing the police officer, was due to marry Ms Murphy in Cork next month.

Judge Paul Carney rejected Reeve's application for bail at



Anne Murphy, leaving Dublin High Court yesterday; Alan Reeve being arrested in Amsterdam in 1982 after killing a policeman; and at court yesterday wearing his habitual black suit and sunglasses



the High Court after an emotional appeal from Ms Murphy. She said: "I was aware of what had happened, of all the circumstances. I felt that he had done enough time. I would trust my life in his hands. He would not abscond because his life is here."

Reeve's capacity for violence began while he was a schoolboy. He was sent to Broadmoor when he was 15 for stabbing and clubbing to death Roger Jackson, a friend of the same age. He had been on a cycling holiday when he met Reeve, the son of a Chelmsford soldier. Reeve sent three postcards, which he

found in his victim's bag, to the boy's parents. He wrote on each of them "DOA": dead on arrival.

Reeve was found guilty of manslaughter and sent to Broadmoor to be detained indefinitely. He had been in trouble since the age of ten and was on parole from borstal at the time of the killing.

Four years later Reeve throttled Bill Doyle, 22, another convicted killer, in a common room at Broadmoor. He confessed, saying that Doyle had asked to be killed.

Shortly before his escape he wrote to William Whitelaw, then Home Secretary, com-

plaining the Mr Whitelaw had turned down a report from psychiatrists and psychologists recommending his conditional discharge from Broadmoor.

The hunt for Reeve and Pat Ford, his then fiancée, who had met him outside Broadmoor when he escaped, switched to the continent. A year after his escape he was captured after shooting dead a police officer in Amsterdam.

Reeve had been attempting to raid a wine shop to buy alcohol to celebrate the first anniversary of his escape from Broadmoor. Ms Ford surrendered to police and told an

officer: "You will never hold him."

She married him in September 1982 in a prison in Utrecht where he was held on remand awaiting trial for the police officer's murder. In December 1982 he was jailed for 15 years for manslaughter.

It is not known whether they divorced. Miss Ford, a former postal worker from Reading, Berkshire, was last heard of living with squatters in Amsterdam.

While in Sheveningen prison in Holland, Reeve qualified as a lawyer. In 1992 a Dutch judge freed him, saying he had suffered enough, in spite

of a report by doctors hired by the Home Office which said he was psychopathic.

Reeve was released, and by the time the decision to free him was over-ruled he had disappeared.

Yesterday Reeve told the court that he had made no attempt to conceal his identity in Ireland. He said: "I've had absolutely no problems with the Garda. It was my belief that they quite possibly knew who I was, but that the English had decided to leave me be."

The court was told that Reeve felt "disheartened and depressed" after three sepa-

rate recommendations from doctors and psychologists that he be released from Broadmoor were turned down by the Home Office.

Reeve claimed that his continued detention in the hospital would have been in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights and "would pose too many dangers to my mental health". But he agreed that he absconded "when I should have remained in custody".

Extradition proceedings are pending, but no date has been fixed.

Reeve's friends and neighbours in Cork spoke yesterday

of their astonishment when they learnt that the well-spoken Englishman, who lived quietly with Ms Murphy and her three children from another relationship, was one of Britain's most notorious killers.

One woman, who asked not to be named, said: "He was very good with Anne's boys. They seemed to get on very well. I'm shocked to learn this news. I find it hard to believe."

Dave Whitty, the owner of the Roundy House pub in Cork, where Reeve and Ms Murphy held their engagement party last year, described him as a gentleman.

Queue-jumper 'hit general in taxi rank row'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A RETIRED major-general was punched to the ground after tackling a foul-mouthed young woman for queue-jumping, a court was told yesterday.

Major-General Richard Gerrard-Wright, 69, said that Debbie Blaize was a "screaming creature" who had felled him with one "mighty blow".

He told Southwark Crown Court that he had been to the theatre with his wife and daughter in the West End of London and had had dinner before joining a queue at a taxi rank after midnight.

"We had been there more than half an hour when there was a bunch of youngsters ahead of us. They had rushed straight to the head of the queue and Miss Blaize, 21, was trying to flag down taxis."

General Gerrard-Wright said: "The girl was in a very highly charged state, she was tensed up and was hurling abuse at the queue and the taxis. I told the girl: 'Oi, you get to the back of the queue, we've been waiting here half an hour.'"

General Gerrard-Wright, a former Director of the Territorial Army and Deputy Colonel of The Royal Anglian Regiment, said that when she pounced for his taxi he prodded her in the back to remonstrate. "We had been waiting there for half an hour on a wet and rainy night. I was fed up that this screaming creature

had pinched our cab. She suddenly swung round incredibly quickly and hit me on my left eye. It smashed my glasses into my face and eye and knocked me backwards. It was a mighty blow."

"There was a lot of blood everywhere and I went back on to the ground and lost my glasses. I suffered intense blinding pain and lost all my vision in my left eye."

Miss Blaize, a nursery nurse from Southwark, south London, who is 5ft 7in tall, denies assaulting the general.

He said that he suffered a severe cut to the cornea and had to have several stitches to his face but had now fully recovered.

Questioned by Luke Blackburn, for the defence, General Gerrard-Wright denied that he had had too much to drink and that he had hurled racist abuse at Miss Blaize. Mr Blackburn asked: "Did you say: 'Blacks should be at the back of the queue where they belong?'"

The general replied: "Absolutely not. I simply wouldn't say anything like that, it was a thought that never entered my mind."

The general paid tribute to his wife, praising her for helping after the attack and aiding him in his recovery. "My wife was an absolute bastion of strength and sensibility by my side as she has been for the last 37 years."

The trial continues.



Major-General Gerrard-Wright, who says he was punched by Debbie Blaize, right, a nursery nurse

Murder victim had been stalked

BY ADRIAN LEE

AN ANTIQUES dealer found strangled and beaten in her country cottage had told police she feared for her safety after a series of stalking incidents. It is believed the killer of Carolanne Jackson, 50, who lived alone, lay in wait and followed her into her home, intending to rob her.

Miss Jackson was well known at antique fairs and, although security-conscious, had been burgled previously. Police said she may have been beaten to force her to open a safe at her house near Woodburn Green, Buckinghamshire. Detectives said her killer almost certainly believed there was jewellery there. The dead woman, who was single, ran her own business, Kings Chase Antiques, from the house.

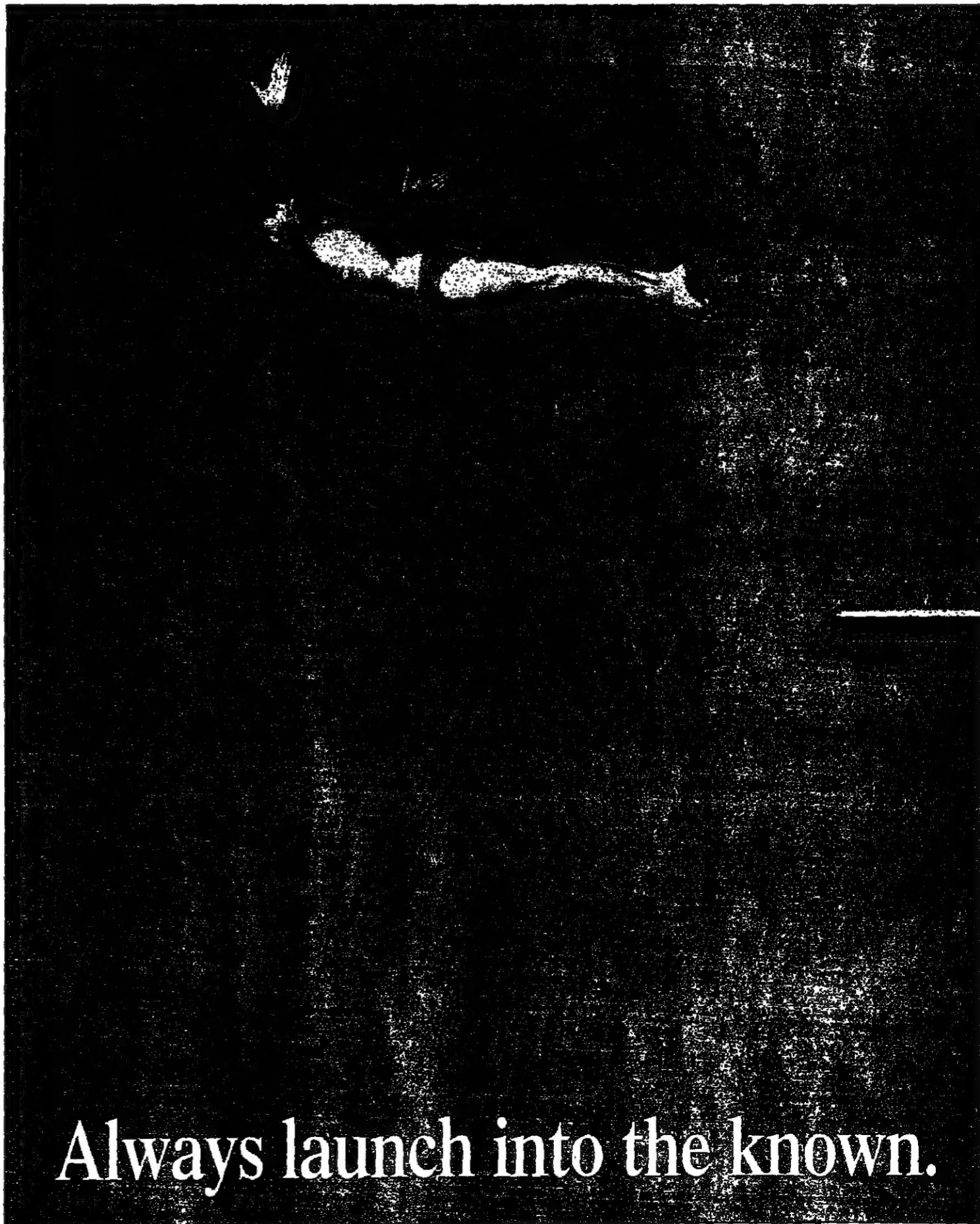
In February, Miss Jackson called police when she was followed in her car. She saw a man prowling outside her house, who then banged on the door. Police said there had been other incidents and they conducted a search of the area after the most recent incident.

Miss Jackson's body was discovered in the kitchen by a friend on Sunday morning, but it is thought she was killed shortly after arriving home from a trip to the Continent on Friday evening. The killer probably slipped inside as Miss Jackson unloaded bags from her car. Yesterday police said a man had been seen near the house on Friday night.

Personal jewellery and a Rolex watch had been taken from her body. Cupboards and drawers had been searched by the intruder. Miss Jackson had not been sexually assaulted and was found fully clothed.

Miss Jackson had just returned from a holiday abroad with a married female friend. She telephoned the friend, either from her mobile phone or a phone in the house, on Friday evening to say she had reached home safely. Police said she had sounded "relaxed and normal".

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Stars to carry on joking apart

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

COMEDIANS Paul Merton and Caroline Quentin have separated "amicably" after five years of marriage, it was announced yesterday. Their split follows speculation about their relationship after Ms Quentin moved out of the five-bedroom £400,000 marital home in Wimbledon and into a West End flat.

Mr Merton, 39, a regular on the BBC television quiz *Have I Got News For You?*, admitted in an interview in the current edition of *Here* magazine: "Being apart can be nice because you look

forward so much to meeting up, but it is a huge strain. Lines of communication can get confused when you're spending weeks away from each other."

Ms Quentin, 36, once said their marriage was like having an affair as they spent so little time together.

The couple performed on stage together in *The Live Bed Show* two years ago but recently work has kept them apart for long periods. Ms Quentin, who films the sixth series of the BBC television series *Men Behaving Badly*

this summer, has just spent two months in Australia filming for the BBC *Holiday* programme and visiting friends.

Her husband has appeared in Channel 4's *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, BBC Radio 4's *Just A Minute* and a host of other shows.

The couple met at the Comedy Store, a London venue for stand-up comedians. Within a week, Mr Merton had moved into her flat, later proposing on one knee under the Eros statue in Piccadilly Circus.

BY RICHARD DUCE

Sir Magdi carried out the 1987 heart transplant on Matthew Poynter, pictured before the operation


"But the lives of patients don't belong to the medical profession and we say it was not the function of the hospital or the staff to overpersuade or

The judge is being asked to decide only the question of liability and any damages will be assessed at a later date. The case, expected to last a week, continues today.



BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

By PHILIP HOWARD

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By JEFFREY E. L.

NATIONAL Lottery being launched, heretofore neglected network of public utility in the state, while many "treasures" are being according to a report.

The independence of Social Change research for various nations, systems of the funding of national leaders, and other groups, including the EMU per head, North East go for the

The group, however, the Lottery fund, recognize that the policies represented, small part of the heritage. The fund, been desperately, and international first, the works of electronic, and as the core of the have inherited, rather than occasional peaks that, three great achievement, the report.

Late Friedrich, the fear of the report, said that - one of the five main reasons for distributing lottery money - the fact is related on its true money, to ensure that money is distributed evenly on regional basis. But there of London, five to five Sax and three in the S. The wider area, crosses the island, Wales and North of Ireland. The only one of the North is a trustee for in Cambridge but a

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Black British golfers play off major handicap

Tiger's success may make clubs change their stripes

By Stephen Farrell

THE prospect of Tiger Woods, the 21-year-old Masters champion, golfing phenomenon and role model for millions of black Americans, teeing off against a black British Ryder Cup opponent is remote.

The Professional Golfers Association has 5,500 people on its books, but only two black golfers play the tournament circuit and both struggle to find sponsorship.

None of the British golf bodies has any idea how many of the country's three million regular golfers are from ethnic minorities. But the Afro-Caribbean Golf Society, founded three years ago, has just 60 members and no clubhouse.

Few expect the situation to change quickly, despite the shrewd marketing tactics of a Nike marketing campaign selling the US prodigy in a television advertisement featuring multiracial youngsters chanting, Spartacus-style: "I am Tiger Woods."

Robert Forde, 29, a professional at Fox Hills Golf Club, near Ottershaw, Surrey, took up golf at 15 at a club near his home in Reading, Berkshire. Among the people he caddied for was Dr Max Bisset, the father of the actress Jacqueline Bisset, who left him his clubs after he died, allowing him to take up the sport seriously.

He said: "I have the ability, but my parents divorced when I was 9 and my mother didn't have the money to help me. If you don't have someone in the family or know someone in a company who will put up the funds, it is very difficult."



Woods: a role model for thousands of golfers

Forde turned professional in 1991 and spent the following years stacking shelves in Sainsbury's and working on building sites to pay his travel costs. He now works 60-70 hours a week in an office near his home, practising in his spare time for competitions on the European Challenge Tour, the springboard to the main European tour.

Last year he was sponsored by the world heavyweight boxing champion Lennox Lewis, who paid for winter coaching and practice abroad. He now has a clothing contract with Hippo, the golf clothing firm which supplies Ian Woosnam, but has no major financial backer.

"Until now potential sponsors have never seen a good black player. Tiger Woods's victory shows that black people can win major golf. I'm just sorry I didn't get there

first." He shrugs off other problems. "There are petty people who are racist and I think we have to work twice as hard, but usually it disappears as soon as you hit the ball and show people what you can do."

He is used to being the only black player in a tournament. His main rival is Allan Jarrett, 33, a Surrey-based Afro-Caribbean 'Golf Society' member who turned professional in the early 1990s. Jarrett plays on the domestic mini-tour and won the Silver Trophy at the exclusive St George's Hill golf club near Weybridge, Surrey. When Jarrett was elected a member of the Home Park club, near Kingston-upon-Thames, one committee member resigned and other members refused to play with him.

In Britain black youngsters gravitate to sports already played by their heroes, such as football, basketball and athletics, and are put off by the middle-class image of golf, the cost of equipment and lack of facilities in inner city areas.

Others say that with many golf clubs struggling to cope with the arrival of women on the links, some are suspicious and even hostile to black players. Last year Burhill Golf Club in Hershaw, Surrey, attempted to ban Laurie Briggs, an adopted Brazilian 13-year-old, from a family fours competition.

Geoff Thompson, 39, a black former karate world champion and member of the Sports Council's Racial Equality in Sport advisory group, urged caution. "There are many sports which have made a breakthrough in multi-cultural access in this country. Golf is not one of them. Golf clubs inherently have always been closed shops. It is more sophisticated than direct racism, starting off with questions of attire and asking who you know, and it goes away once they find out who I am. It is all very discreet, but it must be removed."

Leading article, page 19
Sport, page 52



Mrs Parker Bowles's portrait was issued by the National Osteoporosis Society

Public face of Parker Bowles

By A Staff Reporter

CAMILIA Parker Bowles took a step into the public arena yesterday with the release of a photograph to mark the announcement of a charity role.

The portrait was taken by Sir Geoffrey Shakerley, who is married to a cousin of the Queen. He was commissioned by Mrs Parker Bowles to take the picture on behalf of the National Osteoporosis Society. The society issued the photograph when it made the long-awaited announcement that one of its best-known supporters was to become one of its patrons "with immediate effect".

Mrs Parker Bowles, 48, began supporting the society after her mother, Rosalind Shand, died from the disease in 1994. The announcement by the society yesterday was low key. "Mrs Parker Bowles is not making any comment," a spokesman said. But the development is seen as the first stage in an effort to raise Mrs Parker Bowles's profile after the Prince of Wales admitted their affair.

Lottery funds 'going to elitist heritage plans'

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

NATIONAL Lottery money is being handed out to elitist heritage projects by a small network of people living mainly in the south of England, while many true "national treasures" are being ignored, according to a report.

The Independent Directory of Social Change, which does research for voluntary organisations, yesterday highlighted the funding gap which meant London projects received grants equivalent to £19.64 per head, while the North East got just £1.84.

The group accused the Heritage Lottery Fund of failing to recognise that museums and galleries represented only a small part of the nation's heritage. "The fund's view has been desperately narrow, seeing international fine arts and the works of celebrated architects as the core of what we have inherited, rather than as occasional peaks that rise above great ranges of past achievement," the report says.

Luke FitzHerbert, the author of the report, said that the fund — one of the five good causes responsible for distributing lottery money — "told me that it relied on its trustees, who lived 'all around the country', to ensure that money was distributed evenly on a regional basis. But three live in London, five in the South East, and three in the South West. There is one trustee each in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The only one in the North is a trustee who lives in Cambridge but also

lives in Cumbria some of the time." Mr FitzHerbert added that the fund's definition of "heritage" should be extended to include townscapes that are not in conservation areas; urban fringe areas between the ribbon developments of major cities; school buildings and parts of the countryside that are not classified as being in areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Anthea Case, director of the Heritage Lottery Fund, said that since the end of last year, the fund had increased its grants to the North West, the North East, Merseyside and the South West.

"Where grants are still 'light' is in the East and West Midlands and the South East. The Heritage Lottery Fund is actively pursuing strategies to increase support in those areas," she said.

The report also concluded that much lottery money was going to support institutions whose entrance charges make them inaccessible to people on low incomes.

Camelot, the National Lottery operator, has failed in a High Court case to stop betting shops running 49s, a daily lottery-style game that pays out £51 for three correct numbers, compared with the lottery's £10.

Two judges ruled that a judicial review was not the proper route for Camelot to establish that the 49s scheme was an "unlawful lottery" and said Camelot should bring a private prosecution.

Region	Value of grants per head in Britain
Greater London	£11.61
Scotland	£8.46
South West	£5.39
East Anglia	£3.63
Yorkshire & Humberside	£3.30
North West	£3.23
Northern Ireland	£2.77
South East	£2.52
East Midlands	£2.47
West Midlands	£1.99
Wales	£1.84
North East	£1.84

Source: Directory of Social Change

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Health of nation report shows better treatment is offset by over-eating and drinking

We live longer but have to pay the price for old age

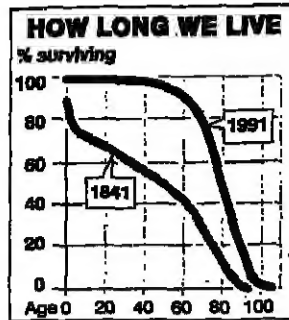
By IAN MURRAY

THE telegram bill at Buckingham Palace is going up. By 2031 there will be ten times as many centenarians as now — 40,000 people will qualify for congratulations from the monarch.

The increase in life expectancy is accelerating thanks to better healthcare, cleaner water and easier lifestyles, according to a survey of the health of the nation over the past 150 years. But an increasing number are eating and drinking too much, and the young are ignoring warnings about smoking and taking too little exercise. Suicides, road accidents and Aids mean the death rate among young adults is falling more slowly than among children and those over 45.

We live on average 30 years longer than our Victorian forefathers, but our old age is almost as likely to be plagued by ill health as ever. Infant mortality has been all but eradicated, but those who survive to draw their pensions are almost as prone to strokes and much more likely to suffer from cancer.

The survey shows that mortality rates have been falling throughout the 20th century.



with the decline over the past decade greatest among the 45-64 age group and least for those aged 20-44.

We are not helping our survival rate by the way we live. Alcohol consumption has remained almost constant over the past decade, with roughly one in four men and one in ten women drinking more than the recommended 21 units a week. Smoking has fallen in every age group, but there has been little change in the amount of tobacco used by people aged 16-24 during the past ten years.

The proportion of those officially classified as obese has been rising steadily since 1980, even though the average number of calories people consume is falling. The problem is greater with older people. Among those aged 55-

64, one male in five and one woman in four is obese. Recent years have seen a steadily growing number of young people with obesity.

The survey blames this tendency to put on weight on our increasingly sedentary life-style, the switch from manual to non-manual work, unemployment and hours watching television. There was a surge in people taking up sport between 1987 and 1990, but no increase since then.

The most significant change in health patterns, however, has been the switch from infectious diseases to cancer and circulatory disease as the major killers. In the 1840s, infections were responsible for one death in three, with tuberculosis accounting for a third of these fatalities.

Cancer was responsible for only a tiny proportion of deaths at the start of the period, but had trebled for men and doubled for women by the turn of the century. By 1911 it was blamed for one in 14 deaths, and by 1992 it was killing one in four.

Diseases of the heart and circulation system caused one death in six in 1911, but by 1992 they were responsible for almost half of all deaths. The increase in heart disease has been markedly higher among men than among women.

Falling birth rates and a longer life expectancy have changed the make-up of the nation. In 1841, just over one in three was under 15 and one in 20 was over 65. Today only one in five is under 15, while one in six is over 65.

Whether the nation is healthier than it used to be, the 528 pages of the two-volume report cannot decide. Although universal improvements in mortality rates and increasing life expectancy suggest we are healthier, surveys of fitness and behaviour patterns related to poor health show little signs of change.

The answer to the question can only be that some things are better, some worse and some have stayed the same. The Health of Adult Britain 1841-1994: The Stationery Office, £40 a volume or £60 a boxed set of two.



Some infectious diseases have been virtually eliminated by better medicine. People now live 30 years longer than in 1841

Study backs dietary value of tomatoes

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

TOMATOES could provide the key to beating cancer, according to a report which appears to confirm earlier findings about their beneficial effect in the diet.

People with lung cancer have lower levels of lycopene, a chemical found in tomatoes, the latest study says. Jean Ford and colleagues from Columbia University told the American Association for Cancer Research meeting in San Diego that, in analysing the levels of various nutrients and vitamins in 204 people, half of whom had lung cancer, lycopene levels were significantly lower in those with cancer than in a healthy control group.

However, Dr Ford said low lycopene levels might be the result of the cancer, rather than its cause.

A team from Harvard found in 1985 that men who eat at least ten servings a week of tomato-based foods are up to 45 per cent less likely to develop prostate cancer.

Cancer and asthma fears drive more people to GPs

By IAN MURRAY

GROWING concern about health has led to increasing numbers of people consulting their family doctor at least once a year. Worries about skin cancer and asthma have both risen sharply.

In 1981, 71 per cent of patients consulted their GP. By 1991, the proportion was 78 per cent. Increases occurred in every age group, in both sexes, and in every category of illness apart from inquiries about mental disorders.

The sharpest increase in patients was among people suffering from asthma, with numbers rising by 165 per cent among females and by 114 per cent among males. Patients with concerns about skin cancer rose by 77 per cent.

Eight out of the top ten

FAMILY FINANCE

Budget of a poor rural family of seven in 1841

Weekly earnings	15s 8d
Bread	9s
Flour	1s 2d
Sugar	2s 6d
Washing blue	1s 4d
Candles	3d
Coal and wood	8d
Cheese	1s
Potatoes	2d
Tea	2d
Soap	2d
Thread	2d
Salt	1d
Butter	4s 6d
Total	13s 8d

diseases diagnosed first came to doctors' notice with patients complaining of stomach ache. Ulcers and liver disease were the main causes of death in hospital. Lung and throat cancers fell 29 per cent among

Grams per head per day	1770	1870	1970	1990
Fat	26	75	145	40
Sugar	10	60	150	67
Potatoes (+ vegetables 1990)	120	400	240	404
Wheat flour (+ cereals 1990)	500	375	200	338
Cereal fibre	5	1	0.2	—

FACTS AND FIGURES

- The proportion of centenarians with blue, blue-grey or green eyes is much higher than for the population as a whole.
- In the 1950s, affluent households were the greatest consumers of fats, sugars and eggs, but by 1993 their consumption was the lowest.
- Parents who suffer the most financial pressure spend least on food and have the lowest nutritional intakes.
- The numbers of drivers who are killed in accidents while over the drink-drive limit is falling but there is an increase in fatalities among intoxicated pedestrians.
- Between 1971 and 1991 two and a half years were added to men's life expectancy. This is the same as the total gain between 1851 and 1961.
- Although they live longer, women report more ill health than men.
- Reported rates of long-term illness show no improvement since the early 1970s.
- There were 17,300 deaths due to injury and poisoning in 1992. Of these, 36 per cent were due to suicide, 24 per cent were motor accidents, 20 per cent accidental falls, 4 per cent accidental poisoning, 3 per cent fires and 2 per cent each to homicides and drowning.

From infection to immunisation in three generations

STATISTICS show that in the 1850s, when my grandfather was a teenager, one death in three was from an infection. By the turn of the century, by which time my father had started to practise medicine, one death in five was from an infectious disease, and by the 1960s, when I was in practice in Norfolk, the number who died in this country from infectious diseases was so low that it is described as being negligible.

Therefore, within the space of three generations, a clean water supply and good sanitation in Britain removed the threat of death from gastro-intestinal infections such as cholera, typhoid, and many serious forms of dysentery. Fatal childhood infections have also been virtually eliminated by the immunisation programmes instituted after the Second World War. It is

now common to work with young doctors who have never seen a case of measles, or of whooping cough unmodified by the childhood injection. In my early days as a doctor, poliomyelitis was as dreaded as meningitis is today; we still searched, usually in vain, for diphtheria in cases of very sore throat, and a neighbour developed tetanus after being crushed by her horse.

The improvement in living conditions in the 20th century reduced the incidence of tuberculosis, but it was only beaten when effective antibiotics were introduced in the 1930s. Childhood was a frightening experience. Improved techniques, and the availability of competent surgical intervention in difficult labours, reduced the death rate, but the great advance came after it was possible



DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

to control puerperal sepsis with antibiotics. Until the Second World War, young doctors drew lots to look after the post-natal wards, because of the contrast of the happiness of birth with the absolute misery when mothers regularly died from sepsis a few days after giving birth.

The control of infection is perhaps the greatest change in medicine in the past 150 years, but it is not the

only one. Despite an ageing population, and therefore an increase in the overall mortality from cancer, the incidence of malignant disease under the age of 70 in men has decreased, although in women this improvement only applies if they are under 50. Cancer of the breast remains the most common fatal cancer in women, and cancer of the lung kills more men than any other tumour. Fortunately the death rate

from lung cancer in all men, and in younger women, is now falling. Some cancers have become less common, and others like cancer of the testis, some forms of leukaemia and Hodgkin's disease, are now treatable. The report shows that many of the cancers which are prevalent in old age are now less frequently seen in the younger age groups. The general outlook is described as "moderately encouraging".

Heart disease accounted for 45 per cent of all deaths in 1994, but coronary disease rates are beginning to fall. This improvement may be the result of better diet, more exercise, fewer cigarettes and different patterns of drinking, but improved care is an increasingly important factor. There are fewer deaths from strokes. The writers of

the report attribute this to changes similar to those which have reduced coronary heart disease, but do not stress the change which co-occurred with the better treatment of high blood pressure.

The conquering of some diseases has contributed to a small, but definite, increase in others. In general there is more neurological disease, but fewer cases of epilepsy and Parkinson's disease are found in the younger age groups. Cancer of the stomach is much less common but that of the oesophagus is increasing. Inflammatory bowel disease is increasingly common.

The report issues a word of warning. It suggests that it can only be a matter of time before another infectious microbial menace, "a bug" to the general public, emerges to threaten us.

Efficiency measures in NHS 'don't help patients'

By IAN MURRAY

THE Government's measures to improve the National Health Service place more importance on saving money than effective treatment, health management experts say in a report published today.

The survey claims that more than half of health authorities and more than two-thirds of trusts have no written strategy for improving clinical effectiveness. The report, by the Health Services Management Centre in Birmingham, describes the present system as perverse and says the Patient's Charter makes things worse.

The authors, Chris Ham and Keiran Walshe, say that although clinical effectiveness is supposed to be a central aim of policy, the mechanisms by which the Department of Health and the NHS Executive measure and control performance put great value on efficiency and economy but do not measure the effectiveness of treatment.

The authors are particularly critical of the Efficiency Index, which judges efficiency purely in terms of patient throughput. This "rewards needless clinical activity and punishes waiting times," the report says.

Because its central aim is to cut waiting times, the report says, the Patient's Charter encourages surgeons to perform ineffective procedures on people who have been on the list a long time in preference to carrying out more effective care on other patients.

This problem is exacerbated further by the contracting system, which values all admissions and clinic visits equally, regardless of the appropriateness of the case.

"At the least, some of these perverse incentives to ineffective clinical practice need to be removed. Ideally, new measures which recognise and reward effective clinical practice should be put in their place," said the research paper, entitled *Acting on the Evidence*.

While some trusts were making real efforts to promote clinical effectiveness, many had progressed beyond the early stages of raising awareness and generating debate, it said.

Although many health authorities had taken the issue to heart, and a number had introduced interesting innovations, some had made little progress.

The report is published by the NHS Confederation, which represents health authorities and trusts. Philip Hunt, the confederation chief executive, said: "Health authorities and trusts are making inroads into the challenging task of establishing evidence-based care but there are practical difficulties to be overcome. Most of all we need to get rid of perverse incentives in measures of NHS achievement if we are to make a success of this policy objective."

Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, said that, if elected, Labour would "replace the so-called Efficiency Index with new means of measuring clinical effectiveness".

Tussauds to sell off roving earls' silver

By JOHN VINCENT

SILVER collected by succeeding Earls of Warwick, whose history includes murder and penury as well as supreme wealth and a career in Hollywood, is to be auctioned.

The earls, heads of one of England's oldest noble families, lived at Warwick Castle until 1978, when it was bought by the Tussauds Group, which also owns the majority of the contents.

The sale on June 5 at Sotheby's in London — the first of two expected to yield about £400,000 — includes a pair of Charles II silver-gilt vases estimated at up to £80,000, and George III's christening gift to his goddaughter. The vases were made in London in 1675 by Arthur Manwaring, inspired by the fashion for Oriental porcelain. The silver-gilt almoner's dish by Thomas Henning of London in 1761 bears the inscription: "His Majesty's Gift on the occasion of the Christening of His God Daughter Lady Georgiana Murray Greville. The Daughter of the Honorable Robt. Fulk Greville and Louisa Countess of Mansfield, August 20th, 1768."

Such dishes were the perquisite of the Lord High

Almoner for his duties at the coronation. This example, bearing the Royal Crown, rose of England and decorated with a unicorn, stag, hound and lion, is expected to fetch up to £30,000.

The earldom was created in 1759. The seventh earl, Charles (1911-84) followed an acting career in Hollywood during which he starred alongside Errol Flynn and David Niven in the 1938 film *The Dawn Patrol*. It was at this time that the family's interests took them away from Warwick.

The castle was originally granted to Fulke Greville, a favourite of the ageing Elizabeth I, by James I. It was during the acting earl's lifetime, but by his son, Lord Brooke, that the castle was sold. Some works of art remained on loan to the castle; others departed with the new earl to America, returning now for the sale.

An oval George I silver-gilt basin by Simon Margas, with an armorial centre engraved with the arms of Francis Greville, the first earl, is estimated at up to £35,000. The magnificent "Warwick Crucet", by Anthony Nelme of London, 1715, should sell for up to £25,000.

Abandoned St Bernards find a home

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

TWO abandoned and inseparable St Bernard dogs who were eating their way through a charity's funds have finally been offered a new home.

Suma and Rumpole get through £100 of food a week, and rescuers at an animal charity in Banff, Aberdeenshire, feared they would never find anyone willing to take on the pair. The two dogs had been found starving and maltreated. But at the eleventh hour the Sellick family, also from Banff, have stepped forward to give the dogs a home on theircroft.

Yesterday Nancy Clarkson, of the centre said that after a national appeal offers had come from all over the country and even the United States. The dogs were inseparable and she thought the centre would have a real problem. "They were eating about 5lb of tripe and dry meal every day."

Steve Sellick said his wife and their children had fallen in love with the dogs, who were now romping happily with their two Newfoundland and an alsatian. "They are settling in really well and are now a very happy couple."

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Still waters goes trawling

Alan Hamilton joins the Prime Minister

JOHN MAJOR went to the bottom of the sea yesterday, for a special occasion. He was there to launch the new trawling boat, the *John Major*, which will be used to trawl for fish in the North Sea. The boat was launched at 10.15am, and the Prime Minister gave a speech to the crew. He said: "I am pleased to launch this new boat, which will be used to trawl for fish in the North Sea. I hope it will be a successful venture."

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WHICH PARTY PLAYS
THE BEST TUNES?

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Laid-back islanders will vote with the tide

"GENERAL election? What general election?"

In a single question, the landlord of the Turk's Head on St Agnes, said it all. Across the Isles of Scilly a glorious, genial disregard for politicians rules. Those anxious to escape British politics without leaving Britain should hasten here forthwith. I arrived on the morning helicopter in search of an election-free zone. I have found it.

"A case of cider," says *The Cornishman* newspaper, on sale here, "its destination Tresco, was taken from the Isles of Scilly Steamship Company warehouse on St Mary's Quay recently. It was found hidden on Rat Island. Four island boys aged 13-14 admitted the offence." This, not the general election, is news on Scilly.

On the mainland, in the same key marginal constituency of St

Ives, John Major was yesterday strutting the quayside in an attempt to win angry fishermen to the Tory cause. Here, only the seagulls chide.

"There isn't going to be an election at all," the postmaster on St Agnes told me. "There are only two candidates for the two places." I reminded him that on May 1, besides elections for the Council of the Isles of Scilly, islanders would also be voting for a Government of the United Kingdom. "I'm not interested in politics," he said. "I vote Liberal."

You may, like me, have pictured the Scilly Isles as primly manicured municipal gardens ringed by souvenir shops and parked off the Cornish coast. I was wrong. Warm, wild, salty, granite-strewn islands and islets — hundreds of them, only five inhabited — straggle off



Matthew Parris discovers a haven for those feeling buffeted by the winds of British politics but unwilling to leave Britain. The Isles of Scilly are warm, wild and salty, an easy-going election-free zone

into the Atlantic, gorsey and rag-muffin. Brown is the predominant colour, wind and birdsong the prevailing sounds.

"It just happens, I suppose," said a girl in the Bishop & Wolf Inn on St Mary's. "It's in May isn't it?" I confirmed this. "You see?" she boasted to friends. "I do keep up."

"Election campaign?" said the helpful lady in the tourist information centre, puzzled at my question.

"Well, it will happen."

"When?"

"On May 1. Not before. They send the ballot boxes and we vote. Then they take them away in a helicopter, and count, I think."

I paged through a publication on sale: "One Hundred Years: Council of the Isles of Scilly." There was a section on the Incinerator Controversy of 1928, and another headed "Steamroller breaks down".

"Election? We're a bit out on a limb, really," said my nice landlady at the Lyonesse Guest House as a white vehicle drove by. "Good heavens! That's the ambulance."

As I write, I have not found a single poster or election sticker. "They did send some pamphlets a few weeks ago," said Clive Mumford, St Mary's newsagent. "It's not a big thing around here. There's no politics or parties on the council. We regard it as a necessary evil, every five years or so. The Times arrives at 9.30 and you can read about it there."

There was a Conservative meeting during the election five years ago. Fifteen people turned up. Then there was a Liberal meeting. Twelve people came but, when their candidate raised his voice, their placard fell off the wall. "People admire David Harris

[the retiring Conservative MP] but not for party reasons, but because he's known here and has worked for us. Once he organised a meeting to form a Conservative Association. The food was free so everybody came. The hall was packed. An association was formed. It contained two members. Ask George Leatherbarrow, who helped set it up."

I found Wing Commander Leatherbarrow (retired) in a charming cottage on the hill. "I can't tell you much about the Conservative Association," he said, "because there isn't one. I tried, but we're not particularly politically minded, which is a good thing on the whole. I suppose," George Leatherbarrow, a dabbable fellow, has channelled his energies into writing the islands' telephone directory, published by the Rotary

Club. He does not know the new Tory candidate.

Mr Mumford told me that ballot boxes from the "off islands" — the smaller ones — have to be collected by sea. If the tides are adverse, the count has to wait. Elections have even been rescheduled to fit in with the tides. For May 1, however, the tides have been checked and all is well. The ballot boxes will come in on time.

As I sat in the Turk's Head, a Scottish National Party broadcast crackled out of the wireless. The publican turned it off. I suspect that, when the next update of that history of the Isles of Scilly Council is prepared, the recent shipwreck of the freighter *Cita*, and the destination of containers loaded with tyres, trainers and 2,000 computer mice, will figure more prominently than the general election of 1997.



Turbot charged: John Major at the auction shed as he prepared to hear fishermen's complaints

Still waters run deep as Major goes trawling for the fish vote

Alan Hamilton joins the Prime Minister on a visit to Newlyn, Cornwall

JOHN MAJOR went among the fishermen of Cornwall yesterday, forsaking the soap box to discuss the plaice box. Unfortunately it was a fine, calm morning, and the trawlermen of Newlyn preferred being out earning a living.

Last week, Newlyn quayside was Goldsmith territory, the scene of an enthusiastic reception for Sir James, who had the benefit of advance publicity. Mr Major's early morning presence was announced only minutes beforehand on breakfast television, giving Newlyn no time to turn out in force. And there was not a quota-hopper in sight: they tend to go to Penzance to offload their catches onto Spanish trucks.

Relics of Sir James's visit still decorated the harbour, with several boats flying the Referendum Party flag, and a large banner on the quayside proclaiming: "Save our

Soles." John and Norma Major ignored them and picked their way across the ice and water of the auction shed to be photographed with a man holding up a huge dead turbot. They smiled bravely.

A friendly vessel was at hand. Tied up alongside and sporting a large Conservative flag, the beam trawler *Cornishman* had just landed 100 boxes of mixed fish, which was sold in the shed by an incompressible auctioneer. Cornish fishermen have no great complaint about stocks, only that quota-hopping boats — British-registered but owned and often manned by Spaniards, Frenchmen or Norwegians — scoop the harvest.

Escorted by the *Cornishman*'s owner Elizabeth Stevenson, the Majors went aboard for coffee with the crew in the galley, and to hear the complaints of the fishermen's representatives.

On the quayside, opinion tended not to favour Mr Major or Europe. Donald Turtle, a local trawler owner, said: "I have voted Tory for 50 years. This time, I shall be voting for another party."

Mick Mahon, a skipper, declared himself for the Referendum Party and claimed the credit, when the Canadians famously arrested a Spanish trawler, for switching government support from Spain to Canada: "The trouble is, there are no votes in fishermen; they are too thinly spread out."

Fishermen are like farmers — permanently pessimistic. Mr Mahon said that last year, 22 Newlyn boats had been decommissioned, and the situation was slowly destroying the community. Every fisherman at sea creates five jobs ashore.

Down in the *Cornishman*'s galley, Mr Major was listening to fishermen's representatives complain that

he had not made it sufficiently clear in the past that he opposed the federalist road. He invited them to Downing Street for talks, and promised that at the inter-governmental conference in June Britain would stand firm against quota hoppers.

Cornish fishermen still intend to sail their boats to a demonstration in Plymouth on Friday, but yesterday they seemed easily pleased by Mr Major's assurances. Captain John Portus, one of their leaders, said: "He is committed to making the British fishing industry viable beyond 2002. What he is saying today is what the industry wants to hear."

Newlyn is in the Falmouth constituency where Sebastian Coe is defending a Tory majority of 3,207. Mr Major went away relieved that he had not faced a demonstration. The *Cornishman* crew went away happy that turbot was making £8.50 a kilo.

Labour raises campaign cash with hotel surcharge scam

James Landale on the secret subsidising of Tony Blair's travelling costs

LABOUR was embroiled yesterday in a "cash for rooms" scandal after it was revealed that the party had secretly arranged for the media to subsidise the cost of Tony Blair's hotel accommodation during the election campaign.

Party officials were forced to admit that each journalist and cameraman travelling with the Labour leader had to pay a surcharge without their knowledge to help cover the party's costs.

The scam unravelled after reporters, whose hotel rooms had been booked by Labour, discovered they were being charged substantially more than those who had booked rooms themselves. Instead of the basic £108 room rate for block bookings at the luxury Hyatt Regency Hotel in Birmingham, the media

yesterday had to pay the full rate of £148. This meant the 40 reporters and cameramen staying at the hotel were unwittingly contributing £1,600 to Labour's final bill. That sum would have just about covered the cost of Mr and Mrs Blair's £475-a-night suite and the 12 rooms occupied by an advance Labour team in the city for yesterday's election speech.

Labour spokesmen blamed the confusion on an overzealous official at headquarters in London who had taken the party's wish to make the campaign tour self-financing too literally. They apologised and promised a refund.

Lesley Smith, a Labour spokeswoman, said: "We do attempt to cover the cost of a small number of staff members but in this case it was somewhat overdone. The £40

that should have been your discount was credited to us. Those of you who paid £148 will be refunded with £40."

She added: "It was confusion rather than conspiracy. It is very unfortunate and we are very sorry."

Roddy Gordon, director of marketing at the Hyatt, said: "The Labour Party asked us to mark up the rates. We negotiated an arrangement with the Labour Party and they asked us to put the rates up. During the negotiating process, we were asked to credit the master account of the Labour Party to the tune of £40 per individual."

Alan Duncan, a Tory vice-chairman and member of his party's campaign team, said: "If Labour has any honesty left, they should subject themselves to a windfall tax on their excess profits."



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Major steps up the attack with accusation against Labour leader of 'hypocrisy'

Blair pledges to create 300 more specialist schools

By Jill Sherman and Arthur Leathley

TONY BLAIR yesterday announced plans for an extra 300 specialist schools, as he set out proposals to raise educational standards, and was last night accused by John Major of "hypocrisy".

Mr Major made a personal attack on the Labour leader, ridiculing Mr Blair's comments that he wanted to give all children the same opportunities as he had given his own son (who is now at the London Oratory, a grant-maintained school). "What Mr Blair wants for his own child is a place in a grant-maintained school — a type of school which Tory policies created, a type of school his party tried to stop, a type of school his party's policies would end," said Mr Major.

"The truth is — what he wants for his own children, he doesn't want for yours. What he has for his own children he wants to take away from yours. This isn't a manifesto — it's a shameful contract with hypocrisy."

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, last night accused Mr Major of ducking the big questions on education and preferring "to engage in a bout of personal abuse".

Mr Blair, speaking in Birmingham yesterday, promised an expansion of the schools which now specialise in languages, sports, arts, and technology and can select up

THE LABOUR CAMPAIGN

to 15 per cent of their pupils on ability. He made clear that he would encourage schools to apply for the extra funding for specialist status particularly those in inner-city areas.

Under the scheme, schools get an extra £100,000 in capital if they can match this with £100,000 raised from business sponsorship. The Government also allows an extra £100 per pupil for three years.

The 231 existing schools, both grant-maintained and comprehensive, can select on the basis of aptitude in certain skills, such as music or languages. Mr Blunkett repeated yesterday that there would be "no further selection" under Labour but aides insisted that children would not be selected on general academic ability.

Under Labour's scheme, bids for specialist schools would only be considered if neighbouring schools were to be allowed access to the facilities.

Mr Blair made clear that the 160 grammar schools would also be protected unless there a majority of parents wanted to change their status. Nor would there be a vendetta against existing grant-maintained (GM) schools, he said. "GM schools will prosper. Church schools will too: they

have been a key part of our education system for 100 years, and long may they remain so. We will tackle what isn't working, not what is."

He said that it was vital to establish the principle that failure of schools was unacceptable. Those in difficulty would be saved but those beyond saving would be closed and replaced by new schools with new head teachers. "Schools must have zero tolerance of failure. We will ensure that there is a closer connection between identifying schools in difficulty and supporting them in the improvement process," he said. "For years there has been talk of success for all; now we have to mean it."

He also emphasised the need for good teachers and gave warning against trouble from teachers' unions. "It is intolerable for pupils to be saddled with teachers who cannot teach; and intolerable for the image of teaching to be defined by extremist and wild resolutions at union conferences. That does nothing but damage to the profession."

Mr Major last night emphasised his personal background when he derided the record on education of Labour councils in poor areas. He drew attention to Tory efforts to help small businesses, reminding Tory activists of his family's difficulties during his young days.



Lisa Potts, who saved children from a knife-wielding attacker last year, at lunch with Tony Blair yesterday

Leader pays tribute to machete victim

TONY BLAIR yesterday met Lisa Potts, the school assistant who was severely wounded in a machete attack last year.

When Horrett Campbell, a paranoid schizophrenic, entered the school where she works in Wolverhampton last July and began to attack the children with a 23in blade, Miss Potts threw herself in his path. She suffered severe injuries to her head, back and arms before the man was overpowered.

Mr Blair's wife, Cherie, met Miss Potts, 22, at an award ceremony recently and asked if she could visit St Luke's

Primary School during the campaign. Yesterday the Blairs made a quiet visit and had lunch in the school canteen.

Miss Potts said: "I think Tony Blair is lovely. He is really nice and really friendly."

Asked about her injuries, she said: "I have a lot of difficulty driving. I still have a lot of headaches and blackouts. I still have flashbacks about that day, especially here at work."

Mr Blair said: "What Lisa did caught the imagination of everyone in this country. She is completely modest about

it but she behaved with the most extraordinary courage. This is the best of the teaching profession." He added that he had wanted to visit a school that had come through a difficult time.

It was not clear whether or not Miss Potts would vote for Mr Blair at the election. Mrs Denise Bennett, St Luke's headteacher, insisted that the visit was not intended to be political. "This was a private visit and it was agreed there would be no political questions," she said. "How Miss Potts votes is her own private affair."

Labour relaunch was spurred by fall in polls and critical press

By Philip Webster and James Landale

THE decision that Tony Blair should, as his aides put it on Sunday, take the election by the "scruff of the neck" was made in Millbank Tower last Friday as party strategists prepared themselves for a rash of damaging "focus on the week" items in the weekend newspapers.

The MORI poll in *The Times* last Thursday, suggesting a big drop in Labour's poll lead, caused concern

at the party headquarters in London, which was further deepened by articles in unfriendly Sunday newspapers suggesting that Mr Blair was more of a liability than an asset.

Mr Blair, Gordon Brown, the overall campaign chief, Peter Mandelson, leading strategist and Blair aide, Robin Cook, the policy chief, Alastair Campbell, his press secretary, Donald Dewar, the chief whip, and other senior aides agreed that Mr Blair himself should counter the attacks by taking an

even greater frontline role.

That decision was presented early on Sunday morning by Labour as Mr Blair rising above "the Tory gutter" and cutting through the "media cynicism." But by the afternoon as the briefings hardened it began to sound more like the so-called "relaunch" portrayed in yesterday's newspapers.

Labour claimed that it wanted to move away from Tory negative campaigning because the polls showed that voters did not like it. The truth was that the aim was to

up the tempo as far as Mr Blair was concerned. And the fact that Mr Blair had a long-planned speech in Birmingham yesterday on education was the perfect springboard.

Yesterday, on Day One of the rest of the campaign, the new strategy was clearly in place. After delivering his speech — notably omitting a few pre-planned jibes at the Tories — Mr Blair then intervened in the other main election story of the day, using an interview on *The World at One* on BBC Radio 4 to harden Labour's line on the fish battle with

the European Union.

Mr Blair was also interviewed by 10 regional newspapers and television stations in the Midlands and the North. Labour aides said the impact of the local media was vital to the campaign and as important as the national media.

Later, Mr Blair opened a new sports centre at Oldham where he was mobbed by hundreds of schoolchildren. As aides had promised on Sunday, he also gave an apparently impromptu speech outside his battlebus before returning to

London.

"These Tories, you know, they are going to attack us and you," he said.

"They are negative, they are nasty, they are personal. But there is a stronger weapon than the fear of the Tories. And that is hope. We can drive these Conservatives out if we have the strength and confidence to say that Britain can be better than 18 years of Tory government."

Tonight the focus will again be on Mr Blair when Labour's election broadcast allies him to the British bulldog spirit.

Tory leaflet withdrawn

A Conservative Party candidate last night withdrew a leaflet carrying the slogan "Sinners want you to vote new Labour" after it was disowned by Conservative Central Office. Peter Scrope, a former soldier who is standing in Labour-held Darlington, apologised for publishing the leaflet after Labour and the Liberal Democrats accused him of gutter politics. Mr Scrope said the leaflet "oversimplified" the issues, but stood by a letter sent to former servicemen in the constituency in which he said Labour was "soft on terrorism".

Demon adverts

The Tory "demon eyes" campaign against Tony Blair was the subject of the second highest number of complaints last year, the advertising industry watchdog has revealed. Only a provocative commercial for women's underwear received more objections.

Copy candidate

The Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, will today ask the High Court to ban a candidate from opposing him under the adopted name of "Sir Nicholas Lyell" in North East Bedfordshire. The Tories described the opponent, formerly called Peter Rubery Hayward, as a nuisance.

Labour saluted

Sir Peter de la Billière, who led British forces in the Gulf War, supported Labour plans for a thorough defence spending review, a proposal that has been attacked by the Tories. His comments came as the Ministry of Defence confirmed spending cuts of 2.2 per cent.

Sleaze candidate

A 7ft transvestite in platform heels is to stand in Tatten against Neil Hamilton and Martin Bell after handing in the £500 deposit. The candidate, known as The Transformer, who is the figurehead for a nightclub, will campaign for the young, old, gay and ethnic minorities.

Local soundings do not suggest a great enthusiasm for Labour

THE election result looks by no means as clear cut on the ground as it does from London. The certainties of the national polls and day-to-day obsessions of the media and political circus around Smith Square and Millbank are soon put into perspective once one visits the constituency battlefront. Nobody to whom I spoke yesterday mentioned any of the rows or alleged gaffes in the morning's headlines.

I travelled to the North West, where there are a dozen of the key marginal seats that Labour needs to win for an overall majority. In particular, I visited Alastair Burt, Social Security Minister for the disabled, who has held Bury North for the past 14 years.

Labour requires a swing of 4.1 per cent to capture the seat, high by historic standards but dwarfed by the double figure swings suggested by recent polls. On that basis, Mr Burt should be heading for defeat. And unless the national



PETER RIDDELL

shares of the vote get much closer by May 1, that is what will happen, despite Mr Burt's solid record as a well respected local member. But this does not appear a foregone conclusion in the constituency itself.

A seat as critical as Bury North, one of the 70 most tightly fought contests in the country, has attracted national attention. John Major

popped in by helicopter last week to visit a local hospital and John Prescott spoke in the town centre, making an unfortunate slip in praising the local candidate as "the man for Bolton". Bury people do not like being mixed up with those from Bolton.

From my short visit and from conversations with candidates elsewhere in the country, I believe there are at least some questions that challenge common national assumptions.

The public is undoubtedly fed up with the Government and its broken promises, and worried about the health service and education. But there is scant evidence of great enthusiasm for Labour and some worries about Tony Blair personally.

Mr Burt claims little evidence of direct switching from Tory to Labour, contrary to the national poll figures, but admits doubts among previous Tory supporters.

Labour candidates else-

where in the country report worries about the level of commitment and turnout among two groups: middle-aged and elderly traditional "old Labour" voters who do not warm to Mr Blair, and young first-time voters who are turned off from politics and may not vote at all.

Labour's problem is to generate enthusiasm for what it can do, as opposed to just "time for a change". This was suggested by Mr Blair's launch of his education proposals yesterday. But much more is needed.

After talking to Mr Burt, I walked across to Bury parish church, where Sir Robert Peel, the Conservative Prime Minister of the 1830s and 1840s, was baptised in 1788. He understood the need to address issues clearly rather than to fudge and to equivocate — even at the cost, in his case, of splitting his party over the repeal of the Corn Laws. Nobody is prepared to act like that in this election.

Slimline Healey goes on the run

Damian Whitworth on a political weasel raising eyebrows in Leeds

WHILE many of Labour's old guard are being kept safely out of sight during this election, two of the trickiest weasels of post-war British politics were let out for a run yesterday. Denis Healey's eyebrows were on the campaign trail. There seems to be something of a trend developing for former Chancellors to slim down. Where Lord Lawson led Lord Healey of Riddlesden has followed. The famous eyebrows now frame a tanned, relaxed face which glows on top of a leaner, trimmer figure.

Lord Healey, who is 79, leapt out of his car as it was still moving and almost skipped up to the doors of White Laidie Court, a sheltered housing complex in Whinmoor, a corner of Yorkshire which used to be in his

old seat of Leeds East but has now been subsumed by neighbouring Elmet, a Tory marginal. Lord Healey, who held Leeds East for 40 years until retiring at the last election, came to show the younger generation how to woo the voters. When he had done it was tempting to think that if new Labour had an old warhorse like him for every new Armani-clad apparition they would be laughing.

Laughing is something that Healey does a lot. And those around can't help but join in. "Hello young people," he boomed as he breezed into a room crammed with elderly folk jostling for position in wheel chairs. "What a beautiful young lady! Do you mind if I...?" he asked Louise Jackson, 98, as he kissed her



Healey: shed a stone in past four months

hand. "What do you look for when you see a pin flying through the air?" he asked. "John Major with a grenade in his mouth." His audience roared, he kissed some more hands and tea was brought. Maise Bannion, 76, told him that she had recently completed a degree course in

mathematics. "She's amazing, she knows all about the Internet," corrected Mrs Bannion.

Ada Dockerty, 79, told him straight out: "You are looking better since you lost your weight." Her friends huddled closer, ears were pinned back. "Well, do you know," started Lord Healey, "I was told by the doctor that I've got post-maturity diabetes and I've got to go on a diet. No sugar, no fat and go easy on the alcohol. I've lost a stone in four months and I hope to lose another two stone this year and I feel great."

His audience nodded appreciably and then there was some more talk about Ireland and the war and what it was like campaigning unsuccessfully, back in 1945. "I'm only doing one day's campaigning a week and I'll be 80 in August so I think this will be my last campaign," he declared.

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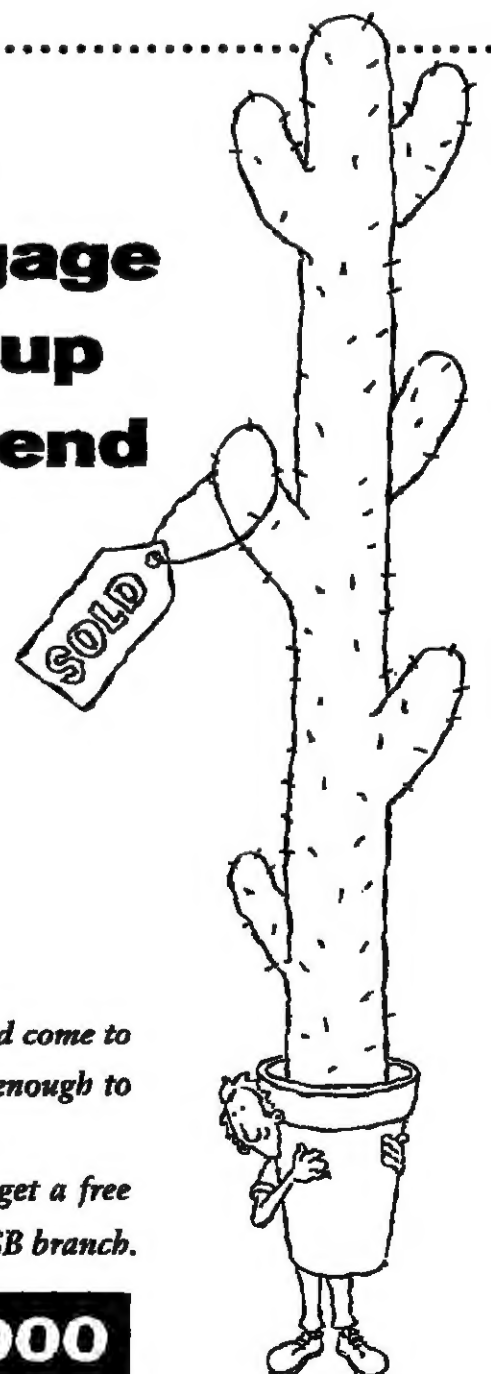
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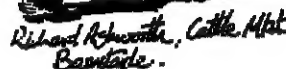
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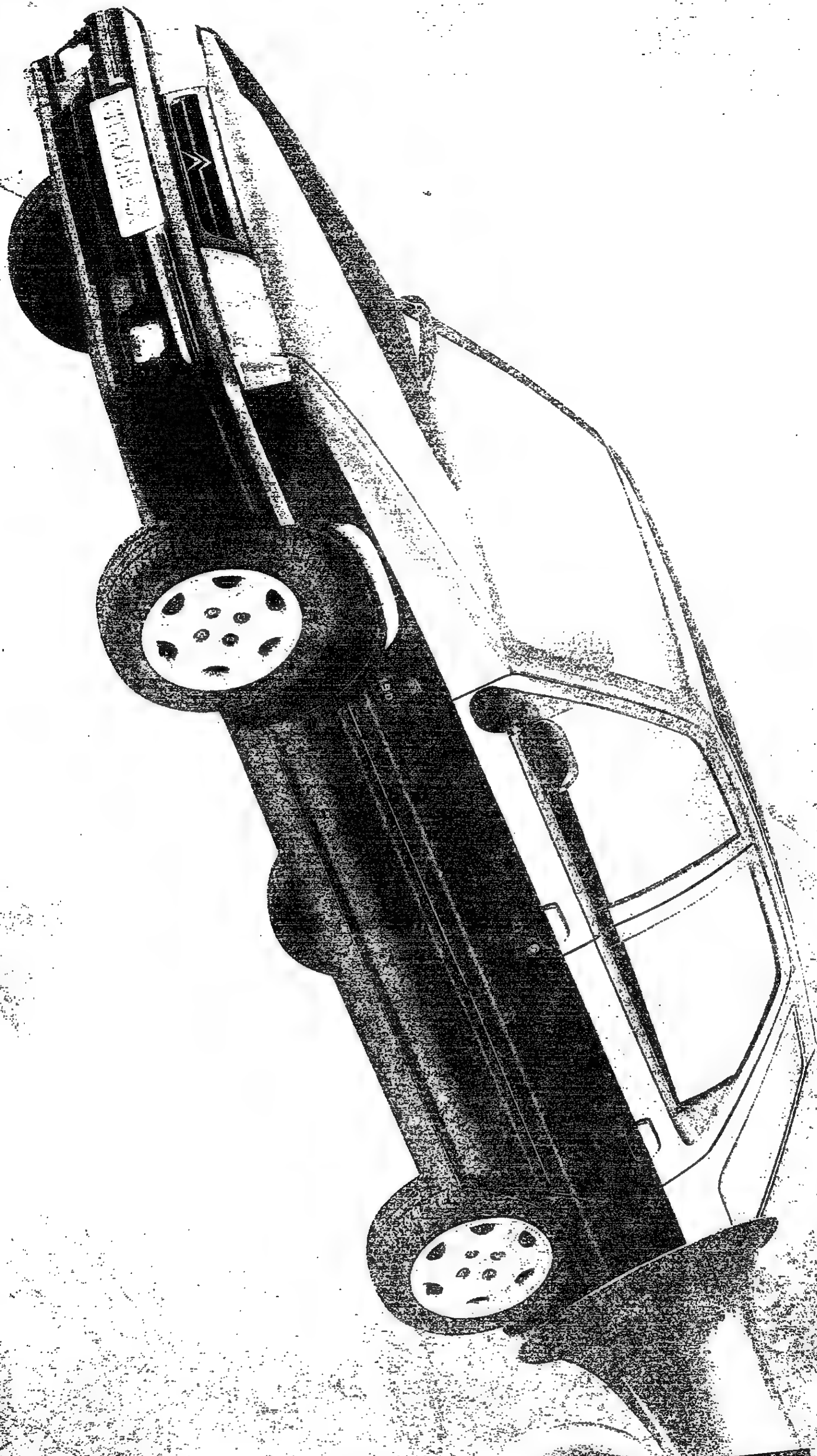
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BY DANIEL MCGRORY

John Major is defending a majority of 36,230 in the constituency. Bellamy, 63, admits: "I'd hate to be in Parliament. I don't care about that nonsense, but I do care that Europe is ruining the coast and countryside."

Over at Referendum Party headquarters in Westminster they were not ruling it in, nor were they definitely ruling it out. An aide said: "I just can't say whether he would turn up

OUR CRIT

"WE'RE the rabble army, ooh-ooh-ooh, hear our battle cry, ooh-ooh-ooh!" Dial 0894 334433, hold the receiver well away from the ear, and prepare to be amazed by the Rev George Hargreaves's battle cry for Sir James. Actually, as three-chord singalongs go, it isn't bad. An adenoidal lady, her voice tremulous

C WRITES

with patriotic fervour, delivers the verse in sub-Joan Baez style. Then what sounds like a handpicked team of tone-deaf lager louts blasts out the good minister's memorable chorus. I don't know what effect they will have on the election campaign, but by God they frighten me.

Richard Morrison

I got the picture. All I was saying was that it seems a shame to waste a vote-winning chance by not luring Sir James on to *Top Of The Pops*.

"My wife will be on there, performing." But what about Sir James? Possibly in a spandex suit?

"Look, I'm not a gambling man," said the pastor, "but it'll be safe money to bet that Sir James will not appear on *Top Of The Pops*."

How unlike Referendum Party people to be so lacking in faith, especially in the face of improbable odds.



Joe Joseph on the man who sees the Referendum Party as a Top Ten hit

OUR CRITIC WRITES

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Major reveals his strategy — to keep on pedalling



Peter Barnard finds the Prime Minister caught out by the deceptively easy delivery of a radio all-rounder

And when you consider how much grief "family values" have brought to the Tories, one might wonder why Mr Major did not discover this more prosaic approach to morality years ago: "It is the Church and the bishops from whom people really expect to take a moral lead. The moral dimension to politics says there is a responsibility amongst the haves to help the have-nots."

Mr Major's canny decision to go for a six-week



Ruscoe opened up the real John Major

Richard Baitye from Weymouth, Dorset, asked Margaret Beckett, Labour's Trade and Industry spokeswoman: "Are you still a socialist?" Beckett: "Yes, of course". One sensed the sound of filing cabinets being opened at Millbank as charge nurses working for the chief spin-doctor rushed to check that Mrs Beckett had been given the prescribed 10ml.

But the media highlight of the day, also on *Election Call*, involved a question about pornography and requires no further comment from me. Peter Sissons: "We've a call now from Mary Whitehouse in Colchester. Not the Mary Whitehouse."
Mary Whitehouse: "Who said that?"
Sissons: "It is the Mary Whitehouse."

Kinshasa
a ghost
Mobutu



Hostage families

FROM CHAIRMAN

RELATIVES because they arrived at their relationship the same way may be that high into the 1980s.

Kathy Wagner, Wells, says she and Faran separated during the 1970s.

With no children, Houser says, "I would add that Housers they have been two years."



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Kinshasa becomes a ghost town as Mobutu is defied

CHILDREN played football in streets normally crammed with traffic and state-run buses cruised empty, as Kinshasa's five million residents shut down the capital in a protest at the rule of President Mobutu Sese Seko yesterday.

Kinshasa's Opposition gave Mr Mobutu, 66, a clear message that it wants him to leave office, as Laurent Kabila's rebel forces walked unopposed into two more towns in Zaire's interior.

The *ville morte* (dead city) strike had been called by Etienne Tshisekedi, the Prime Minister sacked by Mr Mobutu last week. The President has imposed a state of emergency in those areas that still recognise him as head of state. But Kinshasa's residents signalled their disgust with martial law and their disdain for the man who imposed it by taking a day off work. The Opposition plans a further protest today, urging students to miss school and college.

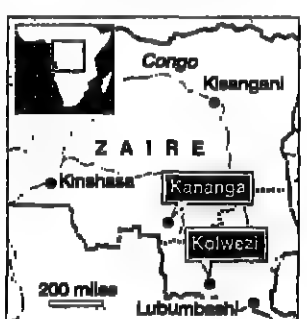
Young thugs who support Mr Tshisekedi loitered on street corners and threatened to stone anyone who did not comply with the "dead city" declaration, but they were irrelevant to the Opposition's cause. "No one is going to move today, no one. Look, everyone wants Mobutu to go," said a delighted "Pappa" Jean Matadi, the driver for *The Times* in Kinshasa. He



Sam Kiley sees the Zairean capital express its contempt for the embattled dictator as more towns fall to the rebel advance

wound down his window to yell English obscenities at soldiers near Mr Tshisekedi's home. Earlier the troops had fired in the air to break up a small group of youths trying to set up barricades of burning tyres and fired on journalists. But this was the only drama in a day intended to send a message of silent contempt to Mr Mobutu, who has ruled Zaire since 1965.

In Matonge, which usually teems with West African traders and jungle-dwelling peasants selling smoked monkeys crucified on bamboo racks, all shops were barred and locked tight, the normally noisy bars silent. The capital's wide colo-



rial-era boulevards were empty. "Very few of us have got any work and prices are going up all the time, because Kinshasa has been cut off from most of the rest of the country. To take a day off work means we get one less day's pay and we will go hungry," said Elizabeth Mbongo, a money-changer. "I will not eat today because I have done no business, and my children will go hungry. It is worth it just to get rid of Mobutu," said Mrs Mbongo.

Kananga, capital of West Kasai province, and Kolwezi, a major industrial centre in Shaba, have fallen to the rebels without a shot. In capturing Kananga, the rebels are 500 miles east of Kinshasa on the southern front. The Goma-based rebel radio, Voice of the People, claimed that rebel forces are just 185 miles from Kinshasa.

In Zaire's second city, Lubumbashi, which fell to the rebels last week and where Mr Kabila arrived yesterday, a new governor took over. Mr Kabila's financial commissioner said there that the



Shops remain closed and shuttered as Kinshasa residents stay at home in a one-day protest at President Mobutu's refusal to step down

rebels planned to renegotiate contracts with international mining companies.

Rebel troops are reportedly massing for an assault on Matadi, Zaire's Atlantic port. Few observers believe Mr Mobutu will be able to hold on for long. However, there are fears that he may unleash his presidential guard to create chaos in the capital. "He is

angry and his pride has been hurt," said a member of his personal staff. As a result, diplomatic efforts are being made to persuade him to leave Zaire for exile.

The US, which once backed Mr Mobutu, has said publicly that the President, who has prostate cancer, should leave office. The view is shared by Britain and other Western

capitals. Thabo Mbeki, the South African Deputy President, said recently his country would not object to Mr Mobutu, who owns a house in the Cape, going there.

Members of the President's entourage said he would never step down under pressure. His son, Nzanga, 27, said: "We have taken on board a democratic logic. My father will go

if he loses the elections." Although French diplomats, perhaps Mr Mobutu's last supporters, insisted that a transition of power should occur only through the ballot box, other envoys dismiss the suggestion. "Mobutu and his cronies have done nothing but obstruct the democratic process in Zaire for the last seven years. The idea of elections

now is a joke and a scam to screw money out of the international community," said one ambassador in Kinshasa. Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, appealed to the international community yesterday to press Mr Kabila to accept a ceasefire and a negotiated solution to Zaire's crisis.

Leading article, page 19

Hostage families go on Kashmir quest

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

RELATIVES of two British hostages in Kashmir have arrived in India to appeal for their release, fearing that, as the winter snows melt, they may be taken out of reach, high into the Himalayas.

Keith Mangan, 35, and Paul Wells, 26, were seized by Al Faran separatists while trekking in the Kashmir Valley. With two other tourists, Dirk Hasert of Germany and Donald Hutchings of America, they have been held for nearly two years. British authorities are assuming that the men are

alive, but there are growing fears to the contrary.

Bob Wells, a sales manager for a department store in Blackburn, has taken leave to join a campaign for the release of his son, a photography student from London, and the other captives. "For over 21 months we have been kept in an agonising situation, not knowing the truth," he said in Delhi yesterday. "We are making this appeal on humanitarian, not political, grounds."

Julie Mangan, wife of Paul Mangan, an electrician from Middlesbrough, said she did not believe Harkat-ul-Ansar, the parent organisation of Al

Faran, when it said it had nothing to do with the seizure of the hostages. "If the men are dead, God forbid, we want to know," she said.

Catherine Moseley, Mr Wells' girlfriend, and a cousin of Mrs Mangan who is heading the campaign in Britain to free the hostages, are also in the party. They plan to visit Pakistan and will travel to the Pakistani side of Kashmir to extend their appeal.

They will also visit Jammu, the mainly Hindu winter capital of Kashmir. Their campaign is financed through fund-raising in Britain and by family contributions.



Julie Mangan: wants news of her husband

Envoys 'linked to ivory trade'

Johannesburg: A British-based animal welfare group has suggested that Taiwanese and other Far East diplomats are behind a spate of poaching of rhino horns and ivory (Inge Gilmore writes).

The International Fund for Animal Welfare has also given a warning of a poaching epidemic should four southern African countries push ahead with plans to legalise the trade in June.

It said that the discovery in a car in Johannesburg of five rhino horns valued at £4,050 was the third poaching case in a month.

Iran long-range missile threat

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

IN A far-reaching strategic development with implications beyond the Middle East, Iran, with the help of Russian experts, two weeks ago tested components of a long-range missile capable of hitting Israel, the Israeli Air Force's commander has said.

According to Israel, the missile will have a range of 950 miles, more than twice that of any now in Tehran's arsenal. Earlier, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, gave a warning that Iran was trying to develop

ballistic missiles to strike not only at Israel but at Western nations.

Last night senior diplomatic sources said that the rapid advance in Iran's missile capability, combined with its efforts — again with Russian help — to acquire a nuclear capability, had increased the chances that Israel may launch a pre-emptive strike similar to that mounted against Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in June 1981.

According to Israeli publications, Iranian missile plans exist in Shiraz, Kurramabad, Farhin and Semnan. Israel's ability to mount a successful

strike has been boosted by a \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) deal for 25 McDonnell Douglas F15 long-range strike aircraft due, says *Jane's Defence Weekly*, to be delivered from this year onwards.

Major-General Eitan Ben Eliahu gave details of the missile test in a broadcast on Israeli army radio that has spread anxiety among many ordinary Israelis.

Israeli experts estimate that Iran is four to nine years away from becoming a nuclear power, but it could "cut corners" and purchase weapons to get a nuclear strike capability even sooner.

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France 16p	28p	Netherlands 20p	28p	UAE 60p	£1.02
Gambia 86p	£1.31	New Zealand 30p	49p	Uganda 90p	£1.31
Germany 16p	28p	Nigeria 70p	£1.05	Uruguay 77p	£1.31
Ghana 70p	£1.31	Norway 26p	38p	USA 10p	24p
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Last herd of bison dwindles to 1,200

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

AT LEAST two thirds of America's last wild bison herd has been wiped out in five months by legal slaughter and a harsh winter. Yellowstone National Park officials say.

More than 600 have been shot since November as they stray north of the park in search of food. Montana marksmen want to keep the state free of brucellosis, a disease some say the bison spread to cattle, causing spontaneous abortions.

Another 464 have been slaughtered reluctantly by park staff, and at least 1,000 are thought to have died of cold and starvation. "Before the winter we had about 3,500 bison in the park," a Yellowstone spokeswoman said. "On our last flight over the park, we estimated perhaps 1,200 were left."

Hard-pressed ranching towns have struck gold by renting snowmobiles to visitors who zoom into the park for snowy views of Old Faithful — the geyser — and bison in full winter coats. Wildlife experts believe the hungry animals are leaving along the snowmobile routes, only to fall foul of sharpshooters.

Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior, has said that the killing "could threaten the future of this national symbol". But such comments are "rhetorical posturing", according to Montana's Governor, Marc Racicot, a cattle rancher.

About 30 million bison once roamed from the Mississippi to the Rockies. Hunted by settlers, they numbered 500 at the turn of the century.

Demand for Reno sacking after fund inquiry is rejected

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

JANET RENO, the US Attorney-General, came under Republican pressure to resign last night as she planned to reject calls for an independent inquiry into irregular fundraising for President Clinton's re-election.

Never far from controversy, Ms Reno was expected to send letters to the Republican chairmen of judiciary committees in both the House and Senate spurring their calls for the appointment of an independent prosecutor to investigate contributions to the Democratic Party last year.

The long-awaited decision seemed certain to create a storm of opposition against Ms Reno, who has already rejected three previous requests to seek an outside investigator.

In advance of her announcement last night Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, said Republicans should launch an investigation into Ms Reno's own role in the fundraising controversy. She had failed to notify national security chiefs of FBI evidence that China was attempting to funnel money to the Democrats to influence the result of the election.

"She needs to answer in public. She needs to answer. I think, under oath," Mr Gingrich said. "How could she possibly not have told the President and the Secretary of State and the National Security Adviser once the FBI had briefed her... how can any serious citizen have any sense of faith in her judgment?"

Dick Arney, the Speaker's deputy, praised Ms Reno as a woman of integrity but said that she represented a corrupt administration and should resign.

At issue is whether Mr Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore knowingly violated

American law in their brazen petitions for election funds. The Lincoln Bedroom of the White House apparently was used like a hotel to entice big donors while others were offered rides on Air Force One, games of golf with Mr Clinton and hundreds of coffee mornings and dinners in the presidential home.

Mr Gore, in violation of the law, has admitted that he made "several" telephone calls from his White House office to solicit funds for the Democratic Party's campaign.

More importantly, however, Republicans want to determine whether American policy and influence was in some way sold to the highest bidders in Asia. Countless donors

with close links to China were allowed unchecked access to the White House, often despite warnings from national security aides.

Ms Reno has said repeatedly that evidence of improper fundraising is being investigated by a team of Justice Department lawyers and as many as 30 FBI agents.

Employing the narrowest parameters of the law, she has said that there is no "specific or credible" information to prove that any of the leading characters, including Mr Clinton and Mr Gore, had broken the law.

A Justice Department official told the *Los Angeles Times* yesterday that the Attorney-General was relying on the advice of career prosecutors and, unless she had a last-minute change of mind, she was planning to reject all calls for an independent investigation.

Ms Reno, who suffers from encroaching Parkinson's disease, has been left with a thankless task. She was only grudgingly returned to the second Clinton Cabinet by a President who resented her previous appointment of four special counsels to oversee various scandals, including Whitewater.

She gained firm Republican support at the time but was yesterday said by Capitol Hill staffers to be caught between "a rock and hard place". To make matters worse, Ms Reno will face a reminder on Saturday of the debacle which marked her entry to office in 1993.

It is the fourth anniversary of the end of the Waco siege and the government raid she sanctioned which resulted in the deaths of 80 members of the Branch Davidian cult. That was the last time Republicans had called for her scalp.

Whitewater sentence

Washington: Jim McDougal, the former partner of the Clintons in the failed Whitewater land deal in Arkansas, faced sentencing on fraud charges yesterday (Tom Rhodes writes).

Found guilty on 18 counts of fraud and conspiracy last May, McDougal has since co-operated with Kenneth Starr, the independent Whitewater prosecutor, in an attempt to commute a possible jail sentence of 84 years and fines of \$4.5 million (\$2.7 million).

McDougal is believed to have corroborated allegations by another banker in Little Rock, Arkansas, that Mr Clinton, then the Governor of the state, forced him to extend an illegal \$300,000 loan to McDougal's ex-wife, Susan.



Jakarta's anti-riot police on a training jog near President Suharto's palace yesterday in preparation for the Indonesian general election next month. With the opposition increasingly frustrated

Police braced for election

over limitations on political activity, the Government is nervous in the run-up to the May 29 poll, although campaigning does not officially begin for another two weeks.

Riots have broken out in four towns in Central Java province in the past two weeks. Although the situation is now generally peaceful, tension prevails and political analysts are giving warnings that further violence is possible. (Reuters)

Party loyalist scoops the pot in Yangtze race for riches



James Pringle in Chongqing reports on China's attempt to inject new life into an economic backwater

IN THIS raw, vibrant city on the Upper Yangtze, the "Hot Pot man" is held up as an example of the tenet of Deng Xiaoping, the late Chinese leader, that to get rich is glorious.

From a tiny restaurant with three pots, Liao Changguang, a "red" entrepreneur, built a business that has grown into more than 30 restaurants and hotels and expanded into the western United States.

Mr Liao, 45, toes the party line and sees no contradiction in getting rich while following Communist ideals. His recipe for success is vision, opportunity and hard work. A tall man with a crewcut who drives an American limousine, which he keeps parked outside his Cygnus Plaza hotel here, Mr Liao was sent into the countryside during Mao's Cultural Revolution, then worked in government offices until Deng, who died in February, launched his free-market reforms in late 1978.

"By 1989, I realised I was not the type of person who sits in offices," he said. "My wife and I sold our house and I rented a room from my mother-in-law." He then started in private business with just £250. He is coy about how much he is worth now, but others say he has a multi-billion yuan fortune.

Mr Liao has since built a school in the poor village where he worked in Mao's day and gives much-needed jobs to school-leavers from there. Adjacent to the hotel in

Chongqing is one of his famed Hot Pot restaurants where, using his wife's secret recipe, Mr Liao provides customers with a big meal plus a fashion and variety show for 60 yuan (£5).

"Anyone can afford to come to one of my restaurants," he said. "I want ordinary Chinese to have a taste of the good life, to eat well, and enjoy looking at a show with beautiful girls."

Mr Liao's brash success story is just what the acting Mayor, Pu Haigang, a former technician in a local steel mill, likes to hear. Mr Pu says that many economists believe Chongqing's future lies not in old money-losing, state-run factories but in the private sector, still less than 31 per cent of the local economy.

The city is claimed by the Chinese to be the most populated in the world. Some 17 million people live in the actual city, but officials say the figure has jumped to 30 million after the incorporation of three, mainly rural, counties. The National People's Congress, the rubber-stamp parliament, last month decided that Chongqing, after breaking away from Sichuan, should be consolidated into a sort of province in its own right, ruled with a guiding hand from Beijing but largely self-governing.

Only three other cities, Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai, enjoy this privileged status. Officials hope the change will create new opportunities for one of China's most backward regions.

But the city has a price to pay for its new status. The authorities have agreed to settle a million people from the nearby Three Gorges Dam hydroelectric project, due to be completed in 2009, with its 400-mile reservoir extending

to the edge of the city. Only 30,000 have been resettled so far in a city already bursting at the seams with up to 200,000 casual workers.

In the volatile city, fights, even with police, seem commonplace. Correspondents visiting Chongqing saw a young man with an axe pursuing a policeman, who was rescued by colleagues who then beat the would-be assailant with truncheons.

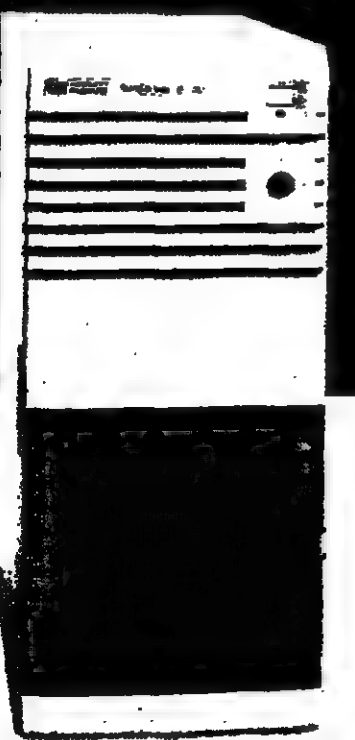
The polluted city, in a spectacular position on a mountain outcrop 1,500 miles up the Yangtze, manufactures cars, motorcycles, pharmaceuticals and chemicals. "The idea is that Chongqing will become an economic powerhouse competing with the prosperous coastal cities," one foreign businessman here said. "Until now, foreign interest has been muted, so let's see what happens with new tax breaks that Chongqing will be able to offer."

While most people here earn low incomes, there is a growing class of nouveaux riches. In the Hollywood bar at Mr Liao's hotel, with erotic pictures on the wall, smart Chongqing girls sip cocktails with their boyfriends, who discuss deals on their mobile phones. This, Mr Pu hopes, is the future of Chongqing.



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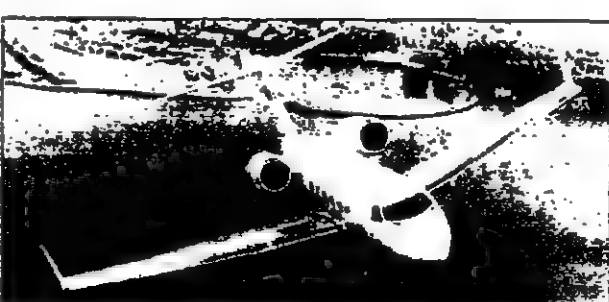
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The Gulfstream V "ultra-long-distance" corporate jet

Bosses take a long look at high luxury

FROM QUENTIN LEYS
IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S latest "corporate toy" — an 18-seat jet aircraft which costs \$37 million (£23 million) — was unveiled yesterday for the handful of senior executives who will have some hope of

flying in it. The Gulfstream V corporate jet, which can fly non-stop from London to Los Angeles, landed in New Jersey after taking off from Tokyo. It is described as the world's first "ultra-long-distance" corporate jet.

In the past, business moguls who wanted to fly to Hollywood after a day's deal-making in the City of London had to suffer the indignity of taking a commercial jetliner.

But now they will be able to fly in the style to which they have become accustomed on charter-haul Atlantic crossings. The Rolls-Royce-BMW powered Gulfstream V can fly for 14 hours without refuelling.

As many as 70 billionaires and multinational companies have already paid non-refundable deposits of \$2 million on Gulfstream Vs, and the waiting list for this ultimate corporate transport is now the stuff of Los Angeles parties. "Are you on the waiting list?" is the question that those who are not have come to dread.

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Women to male hold jobs in A

SS officer ple



Profile of a man in uniform, possibly a police officer, looking slightly to the side.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

YOUR CHANCE TO MEET JOHN MAJOR



Tonight is your chance to tell John Major what you think about the government. There are still so many tickets available for this important event which is a unique opportunity for readers of The Times and Sunday Times to have a say in the general election campaign with the most powerful man in the country.

The Prime Minister will speak for about 20 minutes, answering questions from the audience. The event, to be held in central London, will take place between 8pm and 9.30pm. Tickets must be booked by telephone on 0171 426 0000 and are £10 each (£7.50 for students, pensioners and unemployed).

Telephone First Call on 0171 426 0000

Women try to end male hold on top jobs in Austria

By ROGER BOYES

AUSTRIAN women, angry about being frozen out of top jobs, are rebelling against male domination of the Establishment.

For the past week, their lobbyists have been circulating petitions which, if it gathers at least 100,000 signatures, will force parliament to discuss their demands, including a minimum wage for women, equal pensions and constitutionally-anchored equal treatment at all levels.

The signatures were due to be signed last night, and members of the movement were predicting a huge result in their favour of between 700,000 and 900,000 petitioners. Opinion polls show that about 75 per cent of Austrian women support the initiative, and even 43 per cent of Austrian men accept the premise of the protests.

The campaign has been given some spice by a public spat at Cabinet level. The husband of Barbara Prammer, the new Women's Affairs Minister, has been accused of sexually harassing a colleague in the youth section of the Chamber of Commerce. The minister demanded a public apology from her husband despite his attempts to play down the incident.

"One should not have to burden a sexually harassed woman with the need to provide detailed evidence," she said. "Rather it has to be demonstrated that she was not harassed — the burden of proof is with the man."

The tatement caught the imagination of the women's movement and seems to have swelled the ranks of the petitioners. The protest has been led by Eva Rossmann, the journalist, and supported by leading actresses and writers. They have put forward an 11-

point programme. If parliament fails to accept the key demands, the women are threatening to establish a Women's Party which, according to current opinion surveys, could win as much as 12 per cent of the vote.

The demands partly reflect a broader discontent about the many public spending cuts introduced over the past year in an attempt to meet deficit targets defined by the Maastricht treaty for economic and monetary union (EMU). The women protesters want a guaranteed basic pension equal to that of men, as well as

One should not burden a sexually harassed woman with the need to provide detailed evidence

equal wages with men. Austrian women on average earn a quarter to a third less than their male colleagues in the same job.

Yet when they return from the office or factory, they put in five hours of daily housework compared to a man's contribution of 41 minutes. Women's pensions are half those of men.

The petitioners are demanding a basic right to part-time work, two years of paid maternity leave for single mothers (with a job guaranteed on their return) and a minimum wage for women of about £800 a month. Whole-day care for

children of all ages should be guaranteed by the state, argue the petitioners.

The driving force of the movement, however, is the sense that women are frozen out as soon as they are within reach of senior jobs. In universities, for example, the student population is divided almost equally between men and women. But women lecturers account for 21 per cent of university teaching staff, and only 3.4 per cent of professors are female.

It is a similar story throughout the establishment: there are two women in the 14-member constitutional court, four women in a 12-member Cabinet and top women business executives are rare.

There are 50 women mayors out of a total of 2,326. Austrian politicians are aware that 3.1 million women have the vote, significantly outnumbering men voters. That has encouraged politicians to hail the initiative as overdue and entirely welcome.

But there are some dissident voices. "Legally enforced equality will increase, rather than reduce, financial discrimination," says Norbert Geldner of Austria's main economic research institute. "It will be an own goal," he said. Unemployment among women is already rising by some 4 per cent, while unemployment among men fell by 3 per cent in February. Some politicians have been quietly calculating the costs of a minimum wage for women — and have concluded that it would blow a hole in the budget.

Niki Lauda, the former Formula One racing driver, probably spoke for the silent majority of Austrian men when he declared: "I don't see why men have always got to be smacked in the mouth."



French soldiers, part of the advance group, at provisional headquarters near Durres

Peace force gathers in Albania

FROM REUTERS IN ROME

NEARLY 1,200 soldiers from France, Italy and Spain will land in Albania today at the start of Operation Alba (Sunrise), the Italian-led security mission to the Balkan state.

Italy says the force will number 6,000 troops from eight nations once deployment is complete, with up to 2,500 in place by April 25 and the remainder joining them

over the subsequent ten days. The key bridgeheads for the operation are the capital, Tirana, and the ports of Durres and Vlore.

As the operation unfolds, troops will also be deployed in Shkoder, Lezhe, Shengjin, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokastra and Sarande.

Italy will send 2,500 soldiers, including mechanised infantry units and Marines. They will be based in Tirana, Fier and Vlore. A thousand

soldiers sent by France will be based in Durres, while Greece will send a smaller contingent of about 800 soldiers from a mechanised infantry battalion. The Greeks will cover an area south of Tirana as well as the town of Elbasan, and will have a company of troops stationed in Vlore.

Other contributors are Turkey, with 600-800 Marines; Spain, with 450 soldiers; Romania, with 400; Austria, 120; and Denmark, 60.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Alarm delay mystery in Turin Shroud fire

Rome: As about £4.5 million of public money was released by the Italian Cabinet yesterday for the restoration of Turin's fire-damaged 15th-century cathedral, experts said the weekend blaze had caused "irreparable damage" to the chapel in which the Turin Shroud was housed because of an "inexplicable one-hour delay" in summoning the fire service (Richard Owen writes).

The fire has reopened the debate over neglect of art treasures. Raffaele Guarinello, the chief investigating magistrate in Turin, said security had been inadequate both at the cathedral and the adjoining former royal palace, which was also damaged. He said police were investigating arson and an electrical short-circuit as causes of the blaze. As in the fire which destroyed Venice's La Fenice opera house, fire alarms in the cathedral were not switched on.

Yeltsin sacks minister

Moscow: President Yeltsin has sacked Anatoli Zaitsev, his Transport Minister, Interfax news agency reported, quoting informed sources. The sources said Mr Yeltsin issued a decree to get rid of Mr Zaitsev, who had held the post since August 1996. He is to be replaced by Nikolai Aksentenko, his deputy. Mr Zaitsev, 57, is on the board of a company that plans to build a much criticised high-speed rail link between Moscow and St Petersburg. Mr Yeltsin also accepted the resignation, tendered ten days ago, of Vitali Artyukhov, head of Russia's top tax authority, the Interfax sources said. (AFP)

Child killer to hang

Tokyo: A Japanese court has sentenced a serial killer to death by hanging for the kidnapping and murder of four girls, aged between four and seven, in 1988 and 1989. Tsutomu Miyazaki posted the remains of one of the girls to her family, ate dismembered body parts, drank the blood of one of his victims and took videos of the body parts. Passing sentence, Judge Kenjiro Tani said: "The defendant's motive was sexual desire and can only be described as shameful." (Reuters)

Boesak faces 32 charges

Cape Town: South African prosecutors listed 32 charges of theft and fraud amounting to more than 8 million rand (£1.08 million) against Allan Boesak, right, the anti-apartheid cleric, and Freddy Steenkamp, his former bookkeeper. The case, to be heard in August, concerns the disappearance of funds given to the Foundation for Peace and Justice by Coca-Cola, Paul Simon, the American rock musician, and Scandinavian charities. (AFP)



Wrong way to be right

Rome: A telephone caller, supposedly chosen at random, gave the right answer to a television show's planned \$60,000 question — but suspicious organisers had changed the cash-winning query at the last minute. When challenged by Mara Venier, host of the live *Domenica In*, the caller hung up but the row, the latest in corruption-rocked Italy, rages on. (AP)

SS officer pleads illness at retrial

By RICHARD OWEN



Priebke: out at release last year

ERICH PRIEBKE, the 83-year-old former SS captain accused of "multiple murder" over the wartime massacre of Italian hostages, went on trial yesterday for the second time in a year.

He told the military tribunal at Rebibbia prison on the outskirts of Rome that he might not be able to attend future hearings because he was "unwell". "I am here today out of respect for the tribunal," Herr Priebke said.

Despite his age, Herr Priebke appeared fit and alert during last year's trial, which

ended in uproar last August, and in subsequent interviews.

In the first trial he was found guilty of taking part in the murder of 335 men and boys in the Ardeatine Caves on the Appian Way outside Rome in 1944, in the final days of the city's Nazi occupation.

But he was acquitted under a 30-year statute of limitations, which can only be overridden if "premeditated cruelty" is proved. The defence protested that the presiding judge had shown overt sympathy for Herr Priebke and had been heard to say during the trial that he was too old to be punished for a crime committed over half a century ago. In the ensuing public outcry the Minister of Justice ordered Herr Priebke to be rearrested and retried.

The court yesterday decided that Karl Hass, a former SS major also accused of involvement in the massacre, should be tried alongside Herr Priebke. Herr Hass, 84, appeared as a witness in the first trial, although at one point he tried to escape by jumping from his hotel room, breaking his hip bone. Both men claim they were carrying out orders, and would have been shot themselves if they had not complied.

Belgian police under fire

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BELGIAN police are expected to be criticised for a bungled investigation when a Parliamentary report into the country's worst child sex and murder scandal is passed to MPs today.

Since the discovery in August of bodies at houses owned by Marc Dutroux, a convicted child rapist, in Charleroi, the police have been accused of everything from lack of initiative to incompetence.

Yesterday copies of *La Dernière Heure*, a tabloid, were being snapped up at news stands as they contained leaked extracts from the Dutroux Commission's findings.

Among those singled out in the report are Melchior Wathelet, a former Justice Minister, who in 1992, against expert advice, authorised the early release of Marc Dutroux from a 13-year prison sentence, and Benoit Dejeune, chief prosecutor in Brussels.

An overhaul of the judicial and police system is recommended in the report.

Striking doctors in Paris clash

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRENCH junior doctors were involved in violent clashes with the police in Paris yesterday as they demonstrated against the Government's welfare reforms. Several people were injured as almost 300 doctors fought riot police outside the French National Assembly. Hardliners then provoked a second skirmish as they tried to march on President Chirac's Elysee Palace.

The clashes came as the increasingly bitter strike by junior hospital doctors entered its sixth week. Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, has refused to renegotiate a social security package that is designed to cut the French welfare deficit in the run-up to the single currency in 1999.

There are strikes at most of France's 26 teaching hospitals, and some general practitioners also took industrial action. Junior doctors asked colleagues to treat only emergency cases. However, doctors at two hospitals voted to return to work yesterday, and more are expected to follow suit this week.

THE SUNDAY TIMES ELECTION '97 READER FORUM

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'If I had two lives, one of them would be spent in a convent'

As a young girl in Cork in the 1960s, actress Fiona Shaw was forbidden only one thing by her mother: to become a nun. The Ireland of her childhood was effectively a theocracy: the Roman Catholic Church exerted a mesmeric hold over the country. Shaw grew up with a solemn awareness that without a "sense of sin and guilt" there is no genuine religion.

She left Cork at the age of 21 to train at RADA, and all through her years of success at the RSC and the National Theatre she lived a resolutely secular life — the life, she says, of a "perfect bohemian". If she was not being acclaimed as the next Maggie Smith or Vanessa Redgrave, she was moving with the smart set in Los Angeles, where she is rightly admired as a comedienne and quirky character actress. After she played a harassed English schoolmistress who was farcically infatuated with Tom Selleck in *Three Men and a Little Lady*, the big offers rolled in from Hollywood, including one for her own weekly sitcom.

Yet something was missing from her life, something she now describes as an absence of spiritual ritual. In interviews she sometimes spoke of her fascination with nuns and of how her talk, full of theological speculation, constantly bumped into Catholicism. "If we had parallel lives, there would be a bit of me that would be a nun," she once said. "I admire contemplative living. It's a constructive way of opting out."

In January this year Shaw, 38, finally opted out constructively when she spent two weeks with the Tyburn nuns, an order of Benedictine nuns, at their convent on the Bayswater Road in London. The only rules laid down by the Mother General were that she had to wear something modest (she chose a long, brown woollen dress) and submit herself entirely to the discipline of the convent.

The nuns were of mixed nationality — English, Scottish, Australian, New Zealanders and Peruvian. The oldest was 96; the youngest in

Sampling the life of a nun put Fiona Shaw in touch with her spirituality, says Jason Cowley



Fiona Shaw: "I lived the life of a perfect bohemian"

her 20s. Founded at the end of the last century, the Tyburn nuns — "adherers of the Sacred Heart" — are an enclosed, contemplative order whose lives are devoted to the perpetual adoration of Christ.

Waking at 5am each day, they are fiercely ascetic. It is, says Shaw in her spoken diary of her stay in the convent, as if the nuns are pursuing a kind of poetic suicide.

"In a real sense," she says, "the nuns are dead already. Or rather, they are in a heightened sense of preparing to die. Most of them have deliberately lost touch with their families. They have let them go. They are simply clearing a pathway to God. The idea is that if there is a God and you empty your mind of the clutter of existence, then you might

just catch Him." What initially struck Shaw about the nuns was the monotony and repetitiveness of their routine. Each day is the same. There is no respite from the fervour of their adoration.

Their routine is structured around an austere ritual of prayer, song and worship. They rarely interact with each other or with the outside world. Recreation is limited to one hour of occasional indoor games — pool, Scrabble, snakes and ladders (Trivial Pursuit is deemed "too worldly") — and walks in the garden. There is a small library of general books but the Bible remains everyone's preferred reading.

They have no television, CDs or records; the radio is permitted only when there is a major incident. "Like when there is a bomb?" Shaw asked the nuns.

"Oh, no," replied the Mother General. "Like when the Pope dies."

The last time the nuns listened to the radio was in July 1981 — the day of the royal wedding.

Meals are regular but basic — there are no luxuries. "Chicken and pasta is about as good as it gets," says Shaw.

Each night dinner is interrupted by a bell, which prompts a moment of intense, silent contemplation. Indeed, the convent responds to the sound of silence: the nuns are quiet for 22 hours a day.

On the third evening of her stay in the convent, Shaw "hit bad weather". Watching the nuns at dinner she was struck by their apparent gloominess.

"It isn't natural," she whispered into her tape recorder after retiring to her room. "I look at the nuns and I don't see any great vision on their faces. They are bored, too. They are bored and they have a lifetime of this to face."

Shaw's diary raises provocative questions. The nuns, some of whom lived conventionally before joining the convent, are adamant that they are the brides of Christ. "But to be in love with Christ is to be open to Him physically," she says. "One of the main experiences of falling in love is to have a heightened sexual awareness of the other. My experience of the convent was the absolute absence of the language of sex and sexuality."

Later, she asks: "What happens to the sexual energy of the nuns, especially as they never exercise? Why do you never see any flesh or hair? I don't know what happens if you have a sexual problem here; if you become obsessed with a workman or something."

She speculates, too, on what drove them to enter holy orders, wondering if they are in some way damaged or depressed.

There are also some jewels of self-revelation, as Shaw fantasises about the nuns engaging in secret orgies with monks, confesses her inability to concentrate during prayer, regrets that she cannot leave with the workman who wanders around the convent carrying an enormous plank of wood behind which he hides, and dreams of diving into a pool of red wine.

But midway through her stay Shaw's perception of the nuns began to turn. As they prayed, their faces "radiant with the joy of their love of God", she felt that they were free in a way that she was not. "I swung from loathing their lifestyle to admiring it beyond measure."

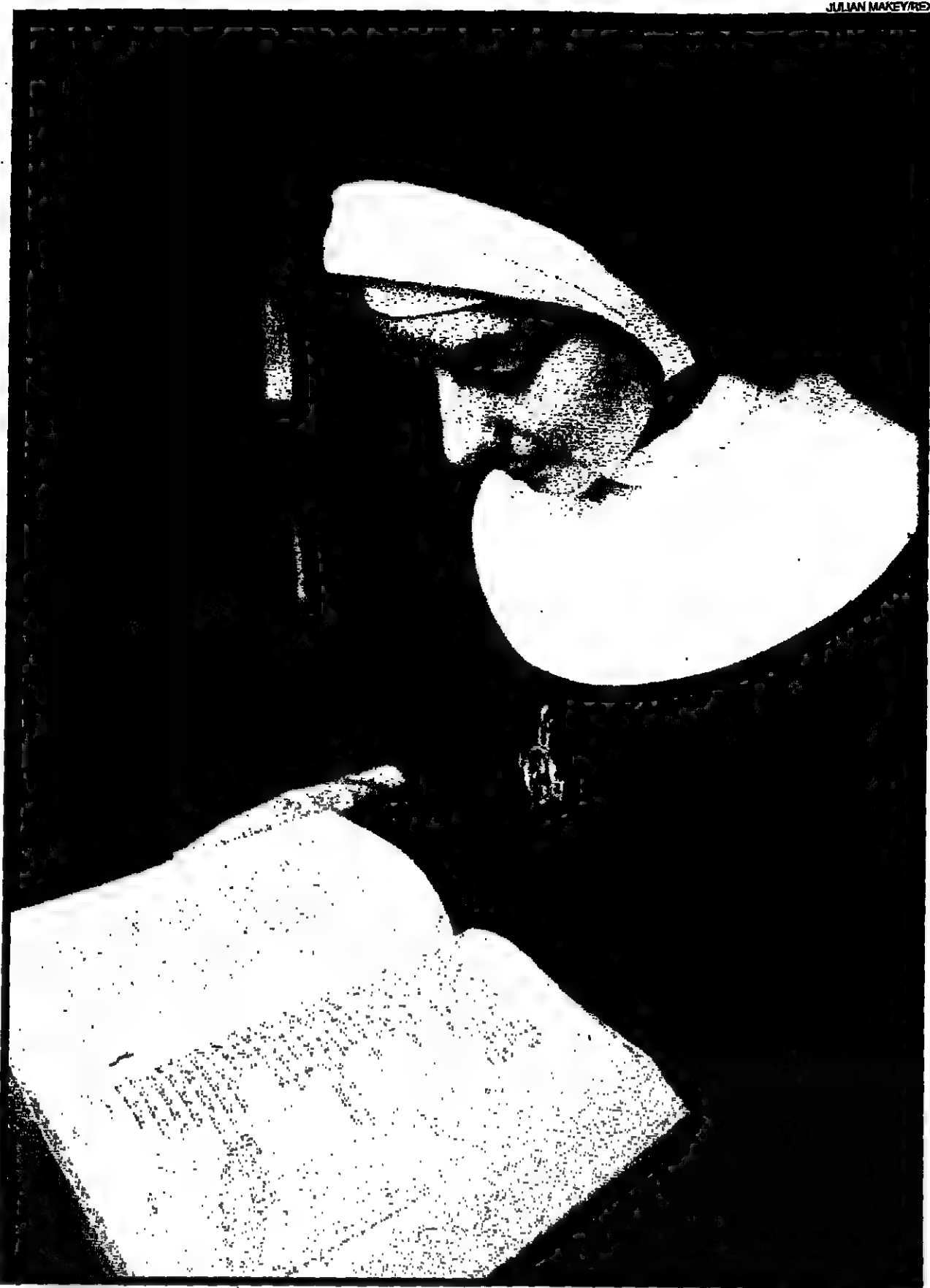
I am completely taken with their way of life. That power to yield yourself to something while at the same time retaining complete control of yourself is magical.

After leaving the convent at the beginning of February, Shaw, who lives alone in a small flat in Primrose Hill, London,

found that the experience stayed with her in unexpected ways. After an initial celebration, she began waking at 5.30am — describing it as if she could feel the prayers of the nuns on her. As well as giving up alcohol and being "dejected by the excesses" of consumer society, she is even questioning her profession.

"I now feel very ambivalent about what I do. I'm bemused at how much acting I've done. I've been doing it non-stop since I was 24. You become a sort of acting machine; it makes you wonder if you are wasting some of your best energy."

"I did *The Taming of the Shrew* for nearly two years and I can remember only four



The Tyburn nuns devote their lives to prayer, song and worship. "It's a constructive way of opting out," says Fiona

or five nights of that. I don't want to sound Pollyanna-ish about this, but we have become such a cynical, prurient generation, so wrapped up in ourselves, that we have lost sight of what is important and true."

She is moved by the great

biblical paradoxes: that we are at our richest when we have nothing; that it is only in darkness that we finally learn to see. "A couple of years ago these nuns were burgled but the burglars took nothing — because they had nothing to take," she says. "This joy of

having nothing means, of course, that you have everything." On the morning of her departure, Shaw told the Mother General that if she had two lives, one would be spent inside the convent. The old nun smiled benignly, reached out to touch the young

actress and said: "Yes, Fiona, but you have only the one life." Shaw says: "I knew at that moment that it was right for me to rejoin the world but that I would do so a changed person."

● Taking the Veil will be broadcast tomorrow at 10am on Radio 4.



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Labour will raise leaving age to 18

Richard Layard on Brown's plans to end unemployment

Amid all the rhetoric, many people have still not noticed the biggest single difference between Labour and the Conservatives. This is in the approach to jobs and skills. Labour's plans here are truly revolutionary. They would prevent most long-term unemployment, and they would ensure a basic skill for almost every youngster.

For the unemployed, the principle is very simple — that after a period of unemployment, everyone should be offered work. It is madness to spend millions on benefits for people doing nothing, when there is so much work that needs doing. Instead Labour plans to spend the money on helping people back to work.

Gordon Brown's key idea is that, after a period, everyone should be helped. Thus for people under 25 there would be job offers to everyone still unemployed after six months. The option of continued life on benefit would thus disappear. Only a universal approach like this can break the dreary pattern of life on the dole that has become endemic on so many of our estates.

After they had been unemployed for six months, people under 25 would be offered four options. The first would be a job with a regular employer, who would receive £50 a week for six months as an inducement to give the youngster a chance. Options two and three would be to work for six months with a voluntary organisation or on an environmental project while receiving benefit plus a fixed sum. The fourth option, for those without basic qualifications, would be full-time vocational education while receiving benefit.

All those jobless after six months will get an offer

To make all this happen, there would be an obligation on jobcentres to deliver this guarantee to young people. The jobcentres in turn would have adequate resources to buy the opportunities needed.

Tony Blair has included this plan as one of Labour's five early pledges, with the aim of reducing youth unemployment by a quarter of a million. Also, to help older people who have been unemployed for more than two years, there would be a tax rebate of £75 for six months to any employer who gave them work.

But will this radical approach work, and is the money there to pay for it? There is a common view that policies of this kind cannot create jobs, but only recycle them. But this view misses the whole point about exclusion. The long-term unemployed have already become very unattractive to employers, which is why we now have record vacancies and, at the same time, 7 per cent unemployment (on international definitions). Labour's policies are designed to bring back into the labour market people who would have been excluded by employers or by their own demoralised state. This would increase the total supply of labour of interest to employers, so that more jobs could be provided without inflation being pushed up.

Of course the policy costs money, but it also saves money. Once it had been going for some time, it would pay for itself through savings on benefits and through higher tax and National Insurance receipts. But in the start-up phase, costs would exceed savings. That is why Labour would introduce the windfall tax on excess profits of the privatised utilities. According to my calculations, £3 billion would completely finance the start-up phase over the course of a Parliament.

The second scandal of our society is low skill. Roughly 40 per cent of our young people have no basic "Level 2" skill — including basic literacy and numeracy. This is twice as many as in France or Germany. These youngsters are destined for either low pay or unemployment, and productivity suffers. Again the approach has to be radical and universal. It is no good having, as the present Government has, a target of reducing the 40 per cent to 25 per cent. We need a change of framework, with every young person expected to reach a basic skill.

Labour's plan is that by the year 2000, every young person under 18 who has not reached Level 2 should be working towards it, either full-time or part-time. So if they are in work they should be given day release or its equivalent for off-the-job study — and if they are not in work, they should be studying full-time to gain a qualification that makes them attractive to an employer. There has to be an organisation responsible for making sure that this happens, so the Careers Service would interview every young person at least once a year from the ages of 14 to 18, to help them to make the most of their potential. Thus for most youngsters the education-leaving age (full or part-time) would rise to 18-plus.

Past policies in this area have been a tragic failure. They have largely relied on employers to provide the training, without realising that employers cannot and will not train people who do not have a basic platform of competence on which to build. It is the responsibility of society to provide this platform for everyone.

Faced with the challenge of jobs and skills, Labour has come up with a truly revolutionary programme. As the Churches report rightly argues, the need is urgent. It is a moral issue, and a matter of prudence, to avoid an underclass. Britain already has one and America has a worse one. We cannot solve this problem by copying the Americans, as the present Government advocates. Instead we need a universal approach.

Labour's way is the hand up, not the handout — enabling everyone to earn a decent livelihood. That is the route to self-respect and a healthy society.

The author is Professor of Economics at the LSE, his latest book is *What Labour Can Do*.



We still need Orwell

So Keep the *Aspidochelone* Flying is to be politically sanitised by Hollywood

You get an odd sensation when an ungenerous person quotes your favourite books. Stella Gibbons described it best. It is, she said, "like seeing a drunken stranger wrapped in one's dressing-gown". So forgive any barbs or whippers of pain. I have just found the drunken stranger that is Hollywood reeling about, dribbling on one of my favourite dressing-gowns. They are making a film of George Orwell's lesser-known novel *Keep the Aspidochelone*.

It is an early work, coming just after the Burma police interlude and *Down and Out in Paris and London*. There was more than a decade to run before the heights of *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* when Eric Blair published the story of Gordon Comstock, a bright young man who is so disgusted by the budding consumer society that he tries to reject the culture of money and success by working in a seedy bookshop and writing furiously depressing poetry. He eventually grows up, foiled in his economic nihilism by his girlfriend's pregnancy and the need to make a home for her. Capitulation gives him a strange new feeling: relief. In a gesture of comic bitterness, he buys for their home the symbol of respectability he most hates, an aspidochelone.

The book met lukewarm reviews and low sales. Penguin, all honour to them, brought it into paperback in the 1960s and kept it as a "modern classic", but that is a mere courtesy to Orwell's later greatness. *Keep the Aspidochelone* is not really a classic. It is an endearingly bad-tempered young man's book about the tension between private life and idealism. It throws off endless sparks of cross, youthful wit. Gordon rejects socialism as "four hours a day in a model factory, tightening up bolt number 6003. Rations served out in greaseproof paper at the communal kitchen." But he equally despises middle Britain 1930:

"Advertising — the rattle of a stick in a swill-bucket... silliness, greed and vulgarity... look behind that slick self-satisfaction, that tinseling, fat-bellied triviality, there is nothing but a frightful emptiness, a secret despair. The great death-wish of the modern world. Suicide pact. Heads stuck in gas ovens in lonely maisonettes. French letters and Amen pills and the reverberations of future wars." Such grumpyly intelligent doominess is the perfect antidote to

the colour-supplement culture, even today. I read it at least once a year, for pure pleasure.

Yet now it is going to Hollywood. The director, Robert Bierman, hopes it will begin a long partnership between Richard E. Grant and Helena Bonham Carter as — gulp — "Britain's equivalent to Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn". He also informs the arts correspondent of *The Sunday Telegraph* that, driven by the leading lady, the script has been changed to make Rosemary, the girlfriend, "a proactive woman with more strength". He and the producer

consider the heroine too wet and "nursy" and want her to be "fisty" and combative. "Helena's version won't take much crap. She comes back and fights her own corner rather than say nothing as she does in the book." Instead of being a lowly art director in an advertising company (actually rather good going for a woman in 1936, boys, but never mind), the Bonham Carter version shoots up the company and ends up running a division. She also takes the sexual initiative and cracks witty romantic-comedy jokes.

Anybody who has read the book will see what I mean about having a drunk drooling over your dressing-gown. Orwell was not interested in "fisty" women running companies and pouncing on men; but nonetheless his Rosemary is not, as Mr Bierman claims, a "yes darling" type. Orwell describes her with great affection: a neat, debonair little figure, amusedly tolerant of her man's absurd political posturing; the daughter of a big, impoverished middle-class family who earns her own living in a tough world where you could still be sacked on a whim and starve in the street. She argues the gender war with Gordon all right: "Men are brutes and women are soulless, and women have always been kept in subjection and they jolly well ought to be kept in subjection, and look at Patient Griselda and look at Lady Astor, and what about

polygamy and Hindu widows, and what about Mother Pankhurst's pining days when every decent woman wore mousetraps on her garters... Gordon and Rosemary never grew tired of this kind of thing. Each laughed with delight at the other's absurdities. They are in love, and Orwell's definition of that love is unmatchable: "Each was to the other a standing joke and an object infinitely precious."

To exchange such delicacy for the crass cliché of a "fisty" woman roaring to the top in business is plain depressing. To make Rosemary sexually predatory is such a denial of period that it makes you gasp. Orwell's Rosemary bravely insists on contraception, which is why he pushes her away and humiliates her: she is frankly terrified of single pregnancy. Rosemary is a woman to support his unborn child and the future. If I thought that Hollywood would try to convey some of these indignations and ironies, I would be least depressed about Ms Feisty being foisted on the story. Even better if the film does what *Four Weddings* did for Auden, and popularises Gordon's failed poem. Then 1998 could raise its dull, puzzled snout briefly from the consumer trough to hear him rage at "the lord of all, the money-god, who rules us blood and hand and brain".

Who chills our anger, curbs our hope And buys our lives and pays with toys. Who claims as insults, muted joys: Accepted insults, muted joys: Who binds with chains the poet's wit The navy's strength, the soldier's pride. And lays the sleek, entrancing shield Between the lover and his bride.

They just don't make dissent like that any more. New Agers are too wet. Old Labour too bureaucratic, artists and poets too easily bought and too self-conscious. Today only old workers and the odd ex-warrior can produce a parallel rage at everything we have become, and their prose is nowhere near as good. We still need Orwell, more than ever. More than we need Hollywood, anyway.

Libby Purves

never mind the slur on Rosemary. The real pleasure of the novel lies in the way it takes you in a vanished pre-war, pre-television Britain as new sentimentalists for its family values, thrift, stability and literacy; but shines it through the eyes of a furious, disaffected rebel. Relish Gordon's disgust at the contents of the bookshop:

"Father Hilare Chestnut's latest book of RC propaganda. Religion always sells provided it is sappy

campaigning on board. Speaking to Sybil Ruscoe yesterday on Radio 5 Live he was asked whether he would be attending the FA Cup Final on May 17 as Prime Minister. "Either way, I will not be able to attend," he replied. "In the pure air of the new campaign, Mandelson and co. will doubtless be ignoring this blithe admission of the possibility of defeat."

Overboard

CALLING all oarsmen. The stewards of Herley Regatta are scouring riverbanks for any sign of one of their stars from the 1980s. Andy Holmes, Olympic gold medalist in 1988, has disappeared.

When Holmes won the Herley Silver Goblets pairs in the mid 1980s with Steve Redgrave, the regatta could not afford to hand out real goblets. Now the stewards have decided to rectify the situation and have commissioned 60 goblets to distribute to those without.

"We've invited everybody back who is entitled to them," says Richard Goddard, the secretary. "There's been a terrific response but we just can't find Andy Holmes. He's been sighted; he did go abroad for a bit but then we lost him."

P.H.S

Mr Blair goes to sea in a sieve

Woodrow Wyatt

is sceptical of the campaign relaunch

"Trust me" is the confidence trickster's cry through the ages. Repeated too often, it evokes distrust. Last week the left-leaning Anglican Bishop of Oxford, Richard Harries, referred to Tony Blair's "unimpressive" changes to his campaign. In the Roman Catholic journal *The Tablet*, he remarks: "If Labour can change so much, even its vocabulary, to win power, how do we know it won't change just as much in a different direction once it has achieved it? We don't."

Many, including apparently tough businessmen, have fallen for Mr Blair's eager young curates' Christian idealism. Tough businessmen are frequently a soft touch for this approach, especially if coupled with a promise not to raise their personal or income tax rates.

With his long lead in the opinion polls, Mr Blair might have been expected to leave intact Labour's recently published election manifesto. It had been endorsed by 95 per cent of the Labour membership. But to Mr Blair is so contemptuous of his rank and file that they have not been consulted over the sudden policy changes. The reason? When Mr Blair and his entourage saw opinion polls suggesting that Labour's lead was dropping, he panicked.

The Scots were startled when the powers of their intended new parliament were compared with those of an English parish council. Andrew Smith, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said at the Labour Party conference in October: "As if privatising water was not enough, the Tories have dreamt up a crazy new scheme to privatise the air... They want to flog off the National Air Traffic Services... Labour will do everything we can to block this self-off. Our air is not for sale." He must have been shattered when this policy was abandoned last week.

After opposing and then accepting every privatisation measure, Labour stated there would be no more privatisations. With a hole in its proposed budget large enough to fit Gordon Brown's announced last week, that substantial part of Whitehall and other public assets would be sold off, and that new candidates for donations would be examined. Conservative party members must be bewildered. Yet Mr Blair has already arranged that Labour conferences in the future will debate no motions critical of the leadership.

From the Peers' Gallery, both Mr Major and Mr Blair are in a half-length view. The weekly PM's Question Time, Mr Major stands comfortable and relaxed, unless angry, while Mr Blair stands with legs nervously twitching when Mr Major discomfited him, as he frequently does. The more Mr Blair brands Mr Major a weakling, the more it looks the other way round. Hence Mr Blair's evasion of the one-to-one televised debates he once clamoured for. So that the public may judge for themselves, I hope *The Times*'s proposal for a one-to-one debate will be accepted — but I fear that Mr Blair will continue to find excuses to dodge the confrontation.

Mr Blair's most powerful weapon remains that, after 18 years of Tory rule, the other side should be allowed a go. Appreciating that this is a deeply conservative country, Mr Blair, in his fairer moments, concedes that the Tories have done pretty well and that he would follow almost the same policies — but more effectively and minus the sleaze.

All parties are subject to human frailties which pop up unexpectedly to embarrass them. Among the worst was John Stonehouse, described in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* as "politician and confidence trickster", who was a minister for six years in Harold Wilson's 1964 Government. Far more important is whether Mr Blair can be trusted to maintain our prosperity. This is an exceedingly doubtful.

He is pledged to dismember much of the great trade union reforms in return for the unions' silent acquiescence, until after the election, to a programme alien to the beliefs in which they have been nurtured. The hollowness of Mr Blair's claim that the unions will get no favours is exposed by his intention instantly to accept the social chapter and a minimum wage despite the massive job losses these would entail. He derides the Tories for being split over Europe, with numerous Tory candidates declaring themselves against the single currency and further integration. But hardly any oppose Mr Major's determination to stay in the single currency negotiations to ensure that, if it happens, we suffer the least possible harm, although no Tory government would recommend it joining it.

The Conservatives are not afraid of public discussion of the pros and cons. Mr Blair autocratically denies free expression to his candidates, although a substantial number are against the single currency and the further EU integration which he seeks. Herr Kohl and M. Chirac clearly want a Blair victory, which should be a sufficient warning to the rest of us. A change of government would be inescapably for the worse, here and abroad.

Hunted out

BRITAIN'S run of luck in Hollywood took a knock last week when the director Alex Cox was dropped from the movie version of Hunter S. Thompson's 1971 tale of drugs and debauchery, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*.

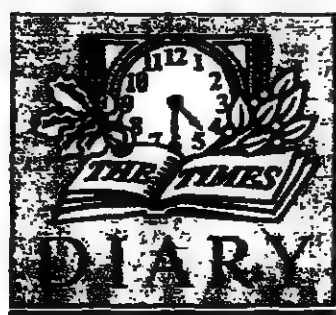
According to reports from the set, Cox, 42, who scripted the film and was once the great hope for the British auteur when he directed *Rap Man* and *Sid and Nancy*, disagreed with Johnny Depp, who stars as Thompson, over the "artistic direction" of the project.

Depp, a drinking pal of Thompson's, was said to be unhappy with

the way Cox was portraying the writer. As tumbleweed blew through the desert sets, Depp said it's either you or me, pal, and Cox walked.

Cox's agent, David Kanter, talks in agent-speak: "Mr Cox and the producers of the film had some important differences of opinion over the direction of the movie. Alex is a guy who makes his own films and he felt this one wasn't going to work for him as much as he wanted to."

Artistic differences with Hollywood are nothing new for Cox. Last year he withdrew one of his



films. The Winner, from the London Film Festival because he was unhappy with the way the film had been cut and edited by its American distributor. Cox said they had turned his film into a "dog's breakfast".

Terry Gilliam, who has had rather more success with Hollywood, has been approached to replace him.

Her Nibs

NOT content with the £13 million just earned by her husband Sir Mark Weinberg from his company Rothschild Assurance, Anouska Hempel, hotelier and former erotic film star, is busy whistling up another fortune. The Australian darling of the beef tomato set has been appointed fountain pen designer to the luggage makers,

Louis Vuitton. Her first range, which was launched in Paris last month, appears to have been a success. "Everyone simply loved the pens," she purrs from her Ham-mersmith villa. "They have stitches running up the sides, just like the Doctor Marten boots which my children wear."

Grave matter

FORGET church graveyards and wee Gardens of Eternal Rest, the place to have one's ashes deposited these days is in "home-from-home" memorial furniture designed by Stephen Richardson, one of Britain's leading stonemasons. Each piece has a special niche in which your urn or urn can rest.

Bird baths, accommodating just one urn, go for £465, while a whole family of six can be accommodated in a garden table at £5,295. "I know people will welcome the opportunity to keep their relatives close by," Richardson says.

Plane talk

CONCLUSIVE evidence that Thabo Mbeki, Nelson Mandela's feisty deputy president, is the man who really runs South Africa comes with news that he has commandeered his boss's

jet. Not content with chairing Cabinet meetings and recruiting his own private politburo, last week Mbeki jetted off for talks in the United States in the plane previously reserved for the President. Come Friday, when Mandela was bound for an inauguration ceremony in Angola, however, a despondent Mbeki, looking as though someone had sucked out all his soft centres, was demoted to the deputy president's humbler wings.

Good to see the Prime Minister taking Labour's call for honest



Depp, Cox and Thompson: middle-man squeezed out

MOZART OF THE AMERICA can learn more from 71



RED HERRINGS

Labour should not be let off the hook

Mr Blair was as slippery yesterday as a newly-caught mackerel. The Labour leader tried to ensure that there was no clear blue water between his party and the Tories on fishing. He did not convince. The Conservative commitment to block progress towards revision of the Maastricht treaty unless the EU deals with "quota-hopping" is only a beginning. The common fisheries policy (CFP) requires more fundamental reform, as will Britain's relationship with Europe. The Tories are, however, at least moving in the right direction. Mr Blair says he will take a tough line but will only promise that the use of the veto is "not ruled out". The Labour leader tried to place himself in Mr Major's slipstream but he is also maintaining a hole big enough to wriggle out of when the time comes to veto.

Since Britain joined the EU the country's fishermen have been victims. On accession in 1973 our fishing stocks provided the other members states with a handsome dowry. British waters held 70 per cent of what became European fish. Other nations were allowed access to traditional stocks, depriving coastal communities of income. That was not the only price they paid. In an effort to prevent over-fishing, the Commission has insisted on progressive reductions in the size of national fleets and the British has been particularly badly hit. Discussions in Brussels yesterday to reduce further the capacity of the British fleet were complicated by the anomaly that has become known as "quota-hopping". Around 26 per cent of the supposedly British fleet are in fact foreign ships, mainly Dutch and Spanish, using licences intended for British trawlersmen to support their own fishing industries.

Britain cannot veto reductions in the size of its own fishing fleet, but it can, and should, threaten to veto the revision of the Maastricht treaty until the injustice of quota-hopping is outlawed. The CFP's quotas were designed to afford a measure of protection to Britain's fishing industry and stocks and it is

insupportable that they should be used by trawlers who take their custom, profits and jobs elsewhere. In the interests of prudent management of the seas, and a proper concern for coastal communities, quotas should be repatriated.

Mr Major's Government has not always been the fisherman's friend. The Tories' earlier opposition to decommissioning schemes impeded a proper restructuring of the nation's fishing fleet. Labour are, however, offering a red herring. Although Mr Blair flirts with the veto, the Shadow Foreign Secretary let it be known in February that a deal which was otherwise satisfactory would not be imperilled by an impasse on fish.

Mr Blair has promised that Labour will lead in Europe, building new alliances and presenting a more positive face. He has also sought to lower expectations, among Britain's voters and partners, that Labour would enter the single currency in the first wave. If Mr Blair is to stand aloof from the single most important part of the integration project then Europe will demand evidence of his good faith in other areas. It will be difficult for Labour, if it is to keep its credibility and the pound, not to show flexibility elsewhere. It is hard to see, if Mr Blair takes his seat at his first intergovernmental conference and is asked, as he will be, to agree to other significant transfers of sovereignty that he would choose to make his stand in defence of the whiting. The Labour leader cannot say he will be more positive in general and then try to be negative in almost every particular.

Mr Blair may well conclude that the interests of the nation as a whole might be better served by securing an agreement at Amsterdam that does not include an end to quota-hopping. If so, he should say so. Otherwise, he should match Mr Major's pledge to Britain's fishermen. For too long, they have seen their livelihoods bartered for influence and a poor bargain struck.

AFRICAN TWILIGHT

The time for talks is past, Mobutu must go

The long, corrupt and dishonourable reign of President Mobutu is coming to an end. Laurent Kabila, the leader of Zaire's disciplined and determined opposition forces, has ordered a renewed assault on government held towns. With the fall of Kananga and the arrival of Mr Kabila in Lumumbashi, most of central and eastern Zaire is now welcoming its new liberators and the rebels are advancing on the beleaguered capital.

General Mobutu, sick, paranoid and oblivious to the collapse of his power, has rejected all calls for his resignation. Meanwhile, as five million terrified residents of Kinshasa prepare for street battles and looting by the demoralised and rapacious police and army, politicians in Paris, Pretoria and the United Nations are calling for a ceasefire. Nothing could be more disastrous. What Zaire needs is not a new treaty leaving in place a manipulative dictator, but the end of him. The sooner Mr Mobutu is defeated, the better.

Three outside factors are complicating this civil war. The first is the presence of thousands of straggling Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire, many of them sick and weak as cholera sweeps their makeshift camps. The second is Zaire's huge mineral and diamond wealth, and the consequent Western political and financial interest in seeing a return to stability to stop the sprawling country splitting into feuding fiefdoms. The third is the legacy of Cold War politics, with the direct involvement of France in a country once seen as a bastion against communism in Africa.

In all three cases, the continued malign

presence of President Mobutu inhibits a solution. Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, yesterday called for a ceasefire; Nelson Mandela is also attempting to broker a political solution. Both men are playing into Mr Mobutu's hands. By suggesting that he is ready to negotiate with Mr Kabila, the President is trying to stall the military advance. His preferred tactic in his fissionary country is bribe and rule. In this case, a continued power vacuum would complicate international attempts to locate and resettle Rwandan refugees, inhibit much needed Western investment and make more likely another orgy of urban looting encouraged by Mr Mobutu as a way of intimidating his enemies.

The Americans have called for the swift resignation of Mr Mobutu. They have established close contact with Mr Kabila, a man who has shed his Marxist past and is talking the same pragmatic language as President Museveni in Uganda and President Zenawi in Ethiopia, both rebel leaders who have come to power by overthrowing dictators. The denouement in Kinshasa, however, still depends largely on France. Stung by accusations that it has backed the old dictator to further its national and linguistic interests, Paris is now swiftly trying to distance itself from past policies. It insists that it wants only a ceasefire to prevent the break-up of Zaire. If this is the case, Paris should now be using whatever influence it has with Mr Mobutu to persuade him that the game is up. If he refuses Mr Kabila's offer of a dignified exit then France should make clear that nothing at home or abroad will save him.

MOZART OF THE GREENS

America can learn more from Tiger than how to swing

At a long-eyelashed 21 years of age, Eldrick "Tiger" Woods played like a seasoned champion to win his first top-level golf tournament. He became the youngest winner of the US Masters, set a record for the Augusta course, and did so in a brisk, genial manner. Amid the jaded joes of professional sports here is a fellow who springs from bed with a nod to his Creator, grateful that the days can be spent sucking the scent of fresh-mown grass into his lungs. It was not only a white-dimpled golf ball that Mr Woods, who is black, addressed with his driver. With those enviably well-timed thwacks it was more than one of Messrs Dunlop and Co's finest that he sent clattering towards the horizon. What he also struck was the last remnants of the notion that people of his colour do not belong to the check-trousered classes, that the only black boy you should see on the fairway is the caddy. That the Augusta National admitted its first black member only in 1990 may have made those drives all the sweeter.

As any coarse golfer should know, it does not do to forgo one's temper. The weekend hacker, in despair of breaching the green, may attempt a baby swipe at the elusive nugget before him. His reward will be nothing more than a muddy divot and a juddering thumb, while the white item itself remains obstinately in place. If a golf ball is to be struck smartly it must be done so with almost breezy indifference. The swing must not be tense, the execution must have a whiff

of classy disengagement. That is the way Tiger Woods plays and it is also the way that he has responded to the colour question. He is the Mozart of golf: a man whose early talent for the game places him among the child prodigy legends and gave him the confidence and mastery to overcome all subsequent obstacles to his advancement.

In many places, particularly in the American media, Mr Woods has been hailed excessively as the champion of all minorities. He has been urged to speak out against racial division, to chastise the old white walrus of the clubhouse — in effect, to fill his elbow with hatred and to plunge his spikes into the spine of the game he happens to love. So far he has wrapped himself in nothing more than the traditional green jacket of the Masters winner. He has said simply that maybe golf will be regarded by young blacks as slightly more "cool".

Some believe that Tiger Woods' success will solve America's racial problems. That is as likely as the popular rise of the splendid name Eldrick — despite early reports of another across the 19th hole as "MacTiger". Next time southern Los Angeles bursts into flames it will not be good enough to wriggle a Marie Antoinette nostril and say "let them play golf". But if those who debate racial injustice can learn to relax their fists, to regard life with the sunny brilliance of the new US Masters champion, they may find that they achieve a better score.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Democracy no substitute for a shared public morality

From the Right Reverend Lord Habgood

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("I prefer my morality to be private, Your Grace", April 12) has once again aired his dislike of public morality by comparing it unfavourably with democracy, thus confirming his commitment to the modern fashion for preferring procedures to principles.

He has a point: public moralising can be oppressive, and democracy is frequently the best way of resolving disputes. But he overlooks the obvious point that democracy itself depends on some generally accepted moral principles, for lack of which it has so often failed in countries where the procedures have been transplanted without the moral basis.

The real debate is not about whether we need a public morality, but about what shared moral commitments are essential if we are to enjoy the freedom to disagree on other matters.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HABGOOD,
18 The Mount,
Malton, North Yorkshire.
April 13.

From the Bishop of Oxford

Sir, Simon Jenkins puts his faith in democracy rather than the moral order appealed to by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbi. But democracy itself depends on that moral order. In particular it is grounded in the value of respect for other people and their right to express their views.

The arrangements of democracy to

resolve disputes by talking and voting rather than violence are not just pragmatic devices. They too are rooted in fundamental values — ones which should certainly be taught in schools.

Nor is democracy something we can take for granted. It grew out of Protestantism, of which Simon Jenkins is himself a distinguished heir. That Christian heritage, Catholic as well as Protestant, is as vital as ever.

Jenkins quotes Alasdair MacIntyre on the value of democracy. What he leaves out is the religious vision that inspired those communities in an earlier dark age. This is an essential aspect of MacIntyre's thesis, whose famous quotation, from *After Virtue: A Study in Moral Theory* (Duckworth, 1986), ends with the words, "We are waiting not for a Godot, but for another — doubtless very different — St Benedict."

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD OKON,
Diocesan Church House,
North Hinksey, Oxford.
April 13.

From Mr Peter Wood

Sir, Simon Jenkins confuses the inalienable rights of his own conscience (eg, on how to lead his own life) with the determination of what can be universally maintained (ie, that what is right for Mr Jenkins is right generally).

What I find so disturbing about the case he puts forward — apart from its frenetic distortion of Dr Carey's positions — is its apparent rejection of any source of advice, wisdom, counsel or authority apart from his own

rationality. The entire point of Alasdair MacIntyre's analysis of our "lost comprehension of morality" is that behaviour was a matter of habit, learned in a community in which you found or knew your place.

That this finding or knowing can be achieved without absorbing the example, advice or counsel of others better and wiser than ourselves is to me incomprehensible and unreal.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WOOD,
Newbold Farm,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire.
April 13.

From the Reverend Giles Hunt

Sir, "Democracy has the floor. Give it a break, and let the bishops return to their cells!"

Get up to date, Simon Jenkins! From the Reform Act of 1867 until roughly 1967, democracy did indeed narrow the gap between rich and poor, and far more effectively than moral preaching, because most voters were poor and politicians in a democracy will heed the majority. But today's problem is that most voters are no longer poor, and politicians are not inclined to heed a minority unless they are shamed into it.

That is what the bishops are trying to do. Instead of knocking their initiative, Simon Jenkins should support it.

Yours faithfully,
GILES HUNT,
The Cottage, Fairstead,
Cley-Next-Sea, Holt, Norfolk.
April 13.

Damage to newspapers

From Mr W. C. F. Butler

Sir, I recently visited the British Library Newspaper Library (the national collection) at Colindale. Seven out of ten of the south London and Thanet newspapers I wished to consult for the period June to October 1893 could not be produced because they were unfit for use — ie, they were on the shelf, but in such poor condition that they could not be read without unacceptable risk of damage. The staff advise me that the library contains literally thousands of volumes in this condition.

Deterioration of newsprint of this age is inevitable. To preserve this irreplaceable resource for the future, microfilming is in progress, both of existing stock and current acquisitions. But there is clearly a very large backlog.

Would not a substantial lottery grant to speed this effort be a better, and more permanent, way to mark the millennium than some of the ephemeral projects on which expenditure of millions of pounds has already been approved?

Yours faithfully,
W. C. F. BUTLER,
20 Cranborne Road,
Hatfield, Hertfordshire.
April 11.

Reporting Hong Kong

From the Editor of the South China Morning Post

Sir, Your story on the *South China Morning Post*, headlined in earlier editions "Censorship fear as China adviser joins Hong Kong paper", reports "concerns from Hong Kong's pro-democracy faction that the Post is shying away from extensive coverage of the territory's political issues".

On each of the three days before your report appeared, the front page of the *Post* led with stories on the major political subject of the week, the proposed changes to civic rights legislation. We carried 16 other stories on the subject over those three days, plus two editorials and three comment articles, one of them running to a full page. If that's shying away from political issues, I'd hate to think what volume of coverage would be required to pass muster.

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN FENBY,
Editor, *South China Morning Post*,
29th Floor,
Dorset House, 979 King's Road,
Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.
April 13.

Speech therapists' pay

From Dr Pat Curry

Sir, Although the Secretary of State has conceded victory to Professor Pamela Enderby (Mrs Greber's letter, April 9), the battle for equal pay for the other speech therapists in the claim which she has been leading continues. Dates have been considered well into December 1997 for some of their cases to be heard.

Surely the time has come to change the law on equal pay for work of equal value so that it actually works for the average employee. Justice that has taken more than ten years to achieve is justice denied. Although the Equal Opportunities Commission's code of practice on equal pay has recently been introduced, what is required is a far more fundamental change in the law and a genuine commitment on behalf of the Government to the spirit of Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome.

Yours faithfully,
PAT CURRY,
22 The Chase, Reigate, Surrey.
April 10.

National Trust ban on hunting deer

From Mr A. Mitchell

Sir, Before animal rights activists crack open bottles of elderflower wine to celebrate Professor Patrick Bateson's study for the National Trust on the hunting of deer with hounds (reports, April 10; see also reports, April 11), they should pause to think.

While the findings indicate that stress levels in hunted deer are unacceptably high, the study also said that shooting was a much more humane way of culling deer. In an age of intensive farming, it may be argued that truly "green" consumers should turn to deer stalking and game shooting.

Furthermore, Professor Bateson himself points out that the same stress patterns are not necessarily applicable to other hunted animals, such as foxes, because of their different behaviour and physiology.

Foxes are difficult to shoot cleanly with a shotgun, not least because of the severely limited range of a conventional game cartridge. A medium calibre rifle is much better, but the possession and safe use of these weapons is severely restricted.

Yours sincerely,
ALASDAIR MITCHELL,
Rudchester Manor,
Rudchester, Heddon-on-the-Wall,
Northumberland.
April 11.

From Mr R. T. Keigwin

Sir, The pathological conclusions of Professor Bateson's study are drawn from blood samples of deer that have been killed after hunting.

No samples were taken from deer that escaped and surely no scientifically based conclusions can therefore be drawn concerning them. I am not aware of any substantial evidence that hunted deer that escape are likely to die later of stress, let alone the 12 per

cent suggested by Professor Bateson. The study would be more convincing if it were able to provide evidence of recovery rates, difficult as this would have been to achieve.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN KEIGWIN,
Low Mains Farm,
Masham, North Yorkshire.
April 10.

From Mr Jeremy Willoughby

Sir, As a result of spending £165,000 of members' money and two years of research the governing council of the National Trust has concluded that deer hunted by packs of hounds suffered extreme stress before they were killed.

I cannot help but believe that this money and time might have been better spent on furthering the Trust's objectives with regard to our national heritage.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY WILLOUGHBY,
59 Gibson Square, NI.
April 11.

From Mr Peter Talbot Willcox

Sir, Has anyone compared the level of stress suffered by a wounded bullock with that of an animal shuffling towards its death in a slaughterhouse? Has anyone measured the collective suffering by far greater numbers of creatures that are wounded by shooting?

Until such research is forthcoming it will continue to appear that the motivation of the anti-hunting lobby is driven by sentimental moralism.

Yours faithfully,
PETER TALBOT WILCOX,
Thamescroft,
Sharnley Green, Surrey.
April 10.

Shopping around

From Mr B. H. Parker

Sir, Yesterday evening, encouraged by the warm and still air, I decided to attend to a rust spot on my car. But I had run out of spray primer paint and had to go to a garage for more.

This proved difficult. In a 20-mile trip round the garages of my area I would have been able to buy a hot paste, various brands of cat food, a greetings card for a new baby, a computer magazine, some flowers for my wife, or a marked-down Easter egg — but no primer paint.

Perhaps I should have tried the grocer's.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN PARKER,
Rook House,
Victoria Road,
Dartmouth, Devon.
April 10.

Crime and punishment

From Mr Fred Wachsberger

Sir, Why on earth do guidelines to magistrates (report, April 7) have to be so complicated?

Simply fining miscreants one or two weeks' (months') income, etc, would be far simpler, proportional, fairer and automatically index-linked. This would save the whole exercise having to be redone in a few years' time.

Yours sincerely,
FRED WACHSBERGER,
Howden Close Cottage,
Corbridge, Northumberland.
April 8.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Threat to children from 'alcopops'

From Mr Ian Sutherland

Sir, I believe that the recent and massive swing among children to drinking "alcopops" — soft drinks with an alcoholic content — constitutes a serious threat to the youth of this country.

Research which we conducted 18 months ago revealed that 29 per cent of 11-year-olds claimed to regularly drink alcohol (at least once a week for a period of three months or more) — a figure which rose to 88 per cent for 15-year-olds. The vast majority of them claimed to drink normal-strength beers and lagers.

This picture has now changed dramatically. Early analysis of results from a survey conducted between December 1996 and February 1997, involving 5,000 children in London, Plymouth and north Devon, has shown that 57 per cent of child drinkers have switched to alcopops. This startling change is already causing great concern amongst the various groups of professionals, from psychologists to teachers and the police, to whom I have shown the research.

Alcohol is a difficult substance for a child to ingest; but in the form currently being presented children are hardly aware that they are swallowing anything more than a normal fizzy or fruit drink.

In addition to being little more expensive than non-alcoholic soft drinks — they range from 49p to £1.09 for a 330ml can — the 30-or-so brands of alcopops that have been identified are many times stronger than the beers being consumed a few months ago. With names like O/D (8.4 per cent proof), Ravens (13.5 per cent) and Cisco (15 per cent) it appears obvious towards whom these products are being marketed. Most table wines are between 8 and 11 per cent proof.

Sincerely,
IAN SUTHERLAND
(Research assistant),
Centre for Substance Abuse Research,
University of Wales,
Swansea, Glamorganhire.
April 14.

Boys and air pistols

From Professor Brian Sheldon

Sir, I read with great concern the truly appalling case of the boys expelled from school for possession of an air pistol (report, April 4; News in brief, April 10).

I have some experience in this field in that in 1958 "Fatty" Pardoe offered to sell me his .22 Webley for 7s 6d. I had long coveted this, but wanted to check its current condition before investing. He brought it to school but the transfer was spotted by "Obersturmbahlführer" Bladen.

Those who consider that school discipline is now in disarray take note of how bad things once were. The lethal (ish) weapon was confiscated, we each received three of the best from R. L. Cooke, MA (Head Teacher), which sometimes on frosty mornings I fancy I can still feel. We were then, in flagrant breach of school safety procedures, sent back to our classrooms.

What happened to the air pistol? We never found out, though we rather fancied that R. L. Cooke, MA, kept it for himself — it was rather a nice one.

What happened to the air pistol? One abused boy? One became an engineer and the other a professor. How much better it would have been had we both been expelled, this decision enforced if necessary by a teachers' strike.

Can nations collectively contract mental illness one wonders? What else could possibly explain the repeated panic attacks from which we currently suffer.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN SHELDON,
Royal Holloway University
of London,
Department of Social Policy
and Social Science,
Egham, Surrey.
April 10.

Spelling it out

From Mr M. J. Gifford

Sir, Perhaps 2001: A Space Odyssey established the convention that the early years of the next century are referred to as "two thousand and x" (letter, April 10).

But somewhere in the middle of the second decade, this starts to sound cumbersome ("two thousand and seventeen", etc). 2020 can surely only be spoken of as "twenty twenty". But when to make the switch? A case for an EU directive?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL GIFFORD,
133 Upland Road, SE22.

Clearing up the House

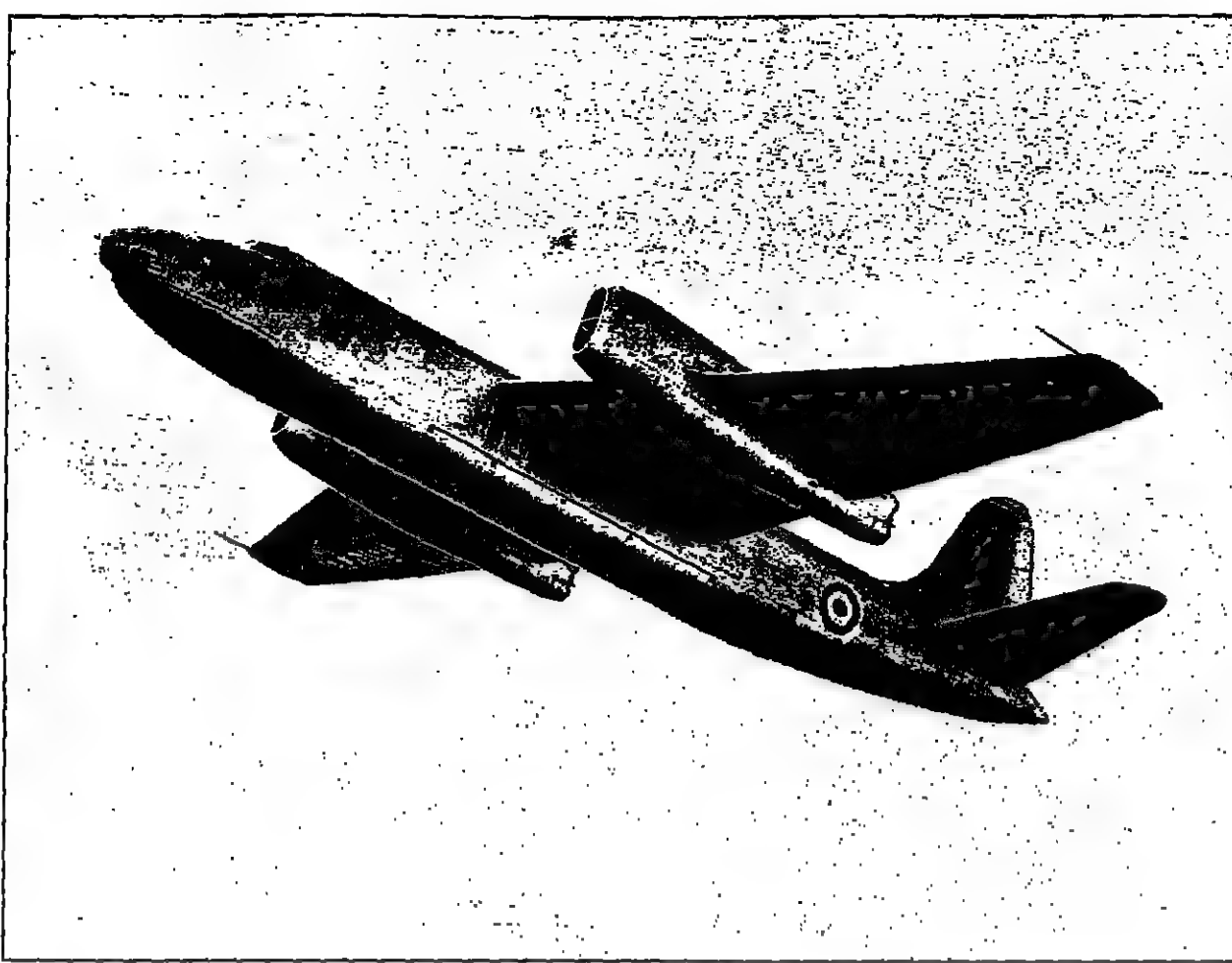
From Mr Hartley Booth

Sir, As the issue of cash and MPs has recently raised some eyebrows, I was interested to receive a letter from the Finance Office of the House of Commons to MPs, dated April 2, stating that:

Due to the dissolution of the House on Tuesday, 8th April 1997, we are endeavouring to clear all outstanding accounts.

Yours faithfully,
H. BOOTH
(Conservative MP for Finchley,
1992-97),
House of Commons.
April 8.

PROFESSOR DAVID KEITH-LUCAS



David Keith-Lucas and the no-frills Short SA4 jet bomber which first flew in 1951

UNISYS

The Times continues its coverage of the 1997 Flora London Marathon with the names of the competitors who finished inside 3 hours, 49 minutes and 56 seconds. The results are provided by Unisys, official suppliers of

computers to the race. The names and times of other finishers will be continued tomorrow.

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4:201 M Bailey 3:24-03; K Hoare 3:24-03; L Hogg 3:24-03; J L Southern 3:24-05; J McNeill 3:24-08; P Bright 3:24-09; G Brown 3:24-10; J Clegg 3:24-10; J Lewis 3:24-07; R Davidson 3:24-08; C Morgan 3:24-09; J O'Connell 3:24-09; S Bayman 3:24-10; D Oesterreich 3:24-10; G Graner 3:24-11; M Lacey 3:24-11; M Smith 3:24-12; D Hattersley 3:24-12; J Hogg 3:24-12; J Hogg 3:24-13; J O'Driscoll 3:24-14; S Paulyn 3:24-15; G Lloyd Davies 3:24-15; J Hogg 3:24-16; J Hemmings 3:24-16; R Sadler 3:24-16; K Stubbs 3:24-16; E De Pree 3:24-16; J Hogg 3:24-17; P Reynolds 3:24-18; S Frost 3:24-18; N Manning 3:24-18; J Hogg 3:24-18; J Hogg 3:24-19; P Ross 3:24-19; D Gray 3:24-19; J Hogg 3:24-19; J Hogg 3:24-20; M Marx 3:24-20; R Smith 3:24-20; D Moseley 3:24-20; S Campbell 3:24-20; J Hogg 3:24-20; J Hogg 3:24-21; A Smith 3:24-21; C Shaul 3:24-21; M Ewins 3:24-21; J Whitmore 3:24-22; J Hogg 3:24-22; J Hogg 3:24-23; A Smith 3:24-23; H De Coster 3:24-23; J Hogg 3:24-24; J Hogg 3:24-24; T Moore 3:24-24; J Mickelthwait 3:24-24; R Willis 3:24-25; M Mayer 3:24-25; J Hogg 3:24-25; J Hogg 3:24-25; C Mycock 3:24-25; N Thorpe 3:24-25; J Hogg 3:24-26; J Hogg 3:24-26; J Hogg 3:24-27; W Greig 3:24-27; J Hogg 3:24-27; M Elliott 3:24-28; A Frewell 3:24-28; J Hogg 3:24-28; J Hogg 3:24-29; M Nickla 3:24-29; D Dawkins 3:24-29; M Lander 3:24-29; J Pollard 3:24-29; J Hogg 3:24-30; J Hogg 3:24-30; J Hogg 3:24-31; S Hayes 3:24-31; R Walton 3:24-31; S Taylor 3:24-31; R Aerts 3:24-32; E Kelly 3:24-32; J Hogg 3:24-32; J Hogg 3:24-33; J Hogg 3:24-33; J Hogg 3:24-34; J Hogg 3:24-34; J Hogg 3:24-35; J Hogg 3:24-35; J Hogg 3:24-36; J Hogg 3:24-36; J Hogg 3:24-37; J Hogg 3:24-37; J Hogg 3:24-38; J Hogg 3:24-38; J Hogg 3:24-39; J Hogg 3:24-39; J Hogg 3:24-40; J Hogg 3:24-40; J Hogg 3:24-41; J Hogg 3:24-41; J Hogg 3:24-42; J Hogg 3:24-42; J Hogg 3:24-43; J Hogg 3:24-43; J Hogg 3:24-44; J Hogg 3:24-44; J Hogg 3:24-45; J Hogg 3:24-45; J Hogg 3:24-46; J Hogg 3:24-46; J Hogg 3:24-47; J Hogg 3:24-47; J Hogg 3:24-48; J Hogg 3:24-48; J Hogg 3:24-49; 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A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a large, dense crowd of people, likely at a protest or rally. The image is filled with the heads and shoulders of many individuals, creating a textured, almost abstract pattern of light and dark. In the upper right corner, a sign is visible with the text: "I AM GAY THAT'S MY PRIDE OF DEMS GO FOR IT!". The overall tone is one of collective action and solidarity.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

A high-contrast, black and white photograph capturing a massive, dense crowd of people, primarily men, gathered for a protest or demonstration. The perspective is from slightly above, looking down into the sea of heads. Many individuals are wearing hats, including fedoras and flat caps. In the lower portion of the image, several signs are visible, though the text is somewhat obscured by the high contrast. One sign in the lower center clearly shows "FIVE" and "1962". To the right, another sign partially displays the word "Peter". The overall atmosphere is one of a large-scale public gathering, with the crowd filling the entire frame from the bottom edge to the top.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

M Bird 3:30:56; D Thompson 3:32:59; L Stainer 3:32:59; Y Morishima 3:32:59; H Jones 3:33:00; K Hall 3:33:01; A Metcalfe 3:33:02; Rudd 3:33:03; C Crane 3:33:04; Ivory 3:33:04; R Hobbs 3:33:04; Pugh 3:33:05; B Pruvost 3:33:05; Cooper 3:33:05; T Harrison 3:33:06; H Harding 3:33:06; I Harvey 3:33:06; C Bell 3:33:06; R Robinson 3:33:06; E Smith 3:33:06

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FLORA LONDON MARATHON

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3:48:08; T Ross 3:48:08; T Phelps 3:49:54; M Porter-Davison 3:49:54; J Ross 3:49:54; E Edwards 3:49:54; K Hardcastle 3:49:54; F Ganser 3:49:55; J Horwitz 3:49:55; B Wesley-Smith 3:49:56; J Hunt 3:49:56; F Stich 3:49:56

More finishers will appear tomorrow

More finishers will
appear tomorrow

Form of Chelsea forwards proves decisive factor



THE FA Cup semi-finals provided their fair share of footballing drama on Sunday, but the FA Carling Premiership title race has hardly caught the imagination yet this season.

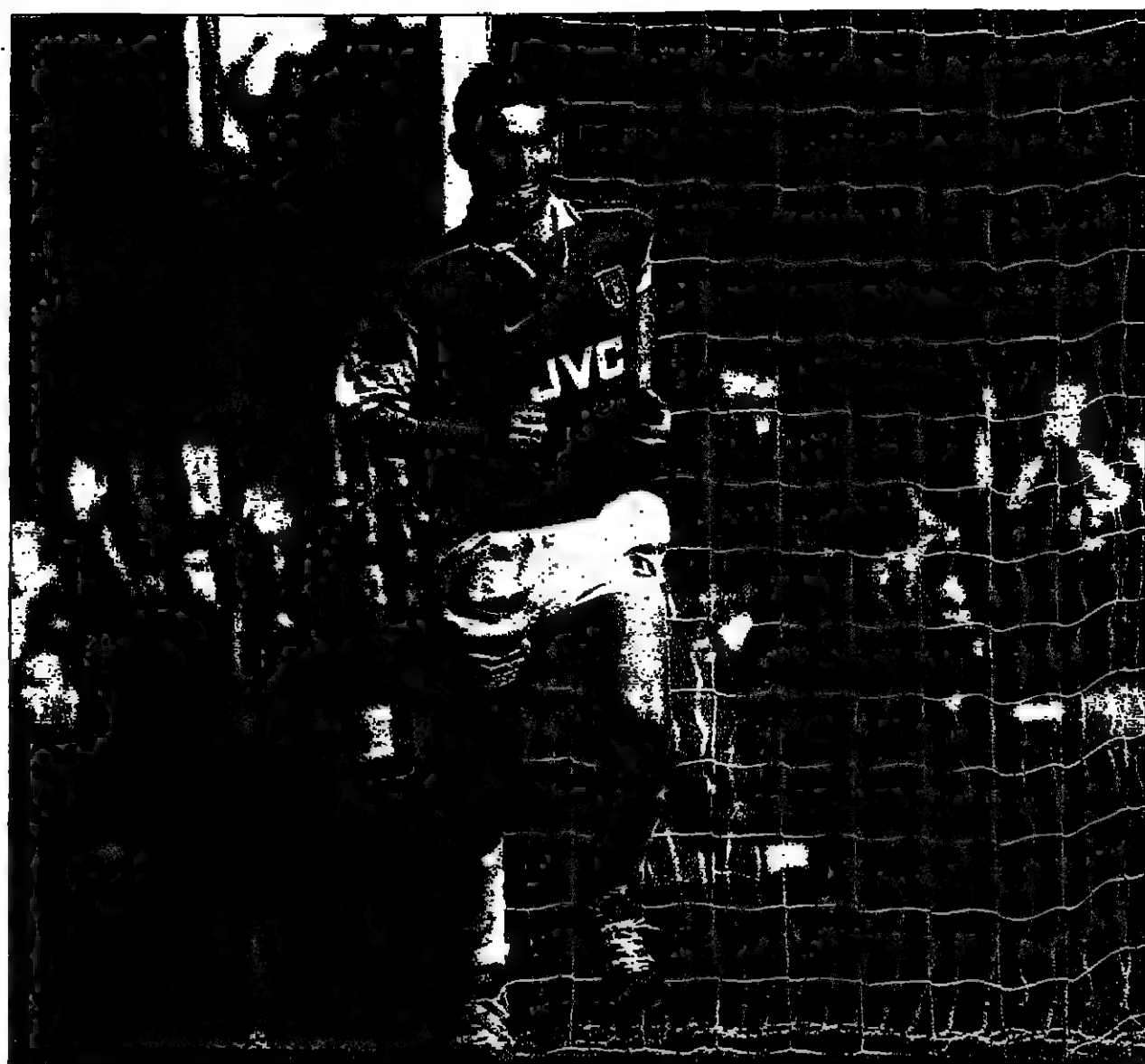
In Interactive Team Football, however, there is an ever-changing presence at the head of the competition. Four out of the leading five selectors have led the overall game during the past two months, and all of them are still very much in contention for the £50,000 prize.

This week, Mr P. Turner, from St Helier, Jersey, takes his turn at the top. Mr Turner, with his team Turner's Earners 5, has scored 736 points, benefiting this week from the goals of Ravanelli and Zola, among others. With five weeks of the season to go, the fixture logjam that has made the headlines in recent days may also contribute substantially to the ultimate destination of the ITF title.

The winner of the £250 weekly prize is Miss L. Emery, from south London, with her team Buggy's Boys, who garnered 42 points over the week — and she presciently included both the Chelsea goalkeepers in Zola and Mark Hughes.

Miss Emery's team is:

Goalkeeper
N Martyn (Leeds)
Full backs
S I Bjornabye (Liverpool)
L Dixon (Arsenal)
Central defenders
S Bould (Arsenal)
D Wetherall (Leeds)
Midfield players
M Gayle (Wimbledon)
Juninho (Middlesbrough)



With seven points over the past week, Adams was the most valuable central defender in ITF. But was he in your team?



M Pembridge (Sheffield Wed)
R Winters (Dundee Utd)
Strikers
M Hughes (Chelsea)
G Zola (Chelsea)
Manager
D Peat (Sheffield Wed)

Although the transfer deadline in the real world has passed, you can use the ITF transfer system, which allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 966 line during the week given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 666.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01532 483 122.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, and Scottish League Premier division and Tervis Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED		
Goalkeeper	4pts	Stays clean sheet
Score goal	3pts	Scored penalty
Scored penalty	1pt	Scored clean sheet
Full back/central defender	3pts	Scored clean sheet
Scored clean sheet	3pts	Scored goal
Midfield player	1pt	Scored clean sheet
Scored clean sheet	3pts	Scored goal

POINTS DEDUCTED		
Goalkeeper	1pt	Scored own goal
Scored own goal	1pt	Scored own goal
Full back/central defender	1pt	Scored own goal
Scored own goal	1pt	Scored own goal
All players	3pts	Scored own goal
Scored own goal	1pt	Scored own goal



Play Interactive Team Cricket for your chance to win £10,000



Full details of how to enter appear in the 16-page Cricket '97 supplement free with yesterday's paper. For a copy call 0171-481 3355.

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 666. You may only make transfers using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selectors PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have scored two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

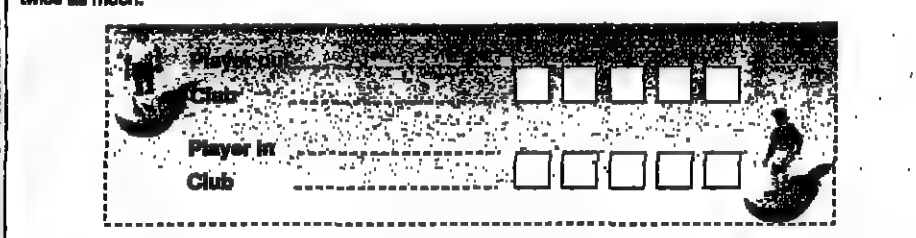
You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £38 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incoming transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 80p per minute. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.



THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Turner's Earners 5	(P Turner)	736	111	Alca	(I Pigeon)	600
2	Edmo Utd	(D Edmondson)	727	112	Alca	(N Ralcliffe)	600
3	Bopha And Sam	(G Foster)	723	113	Alca	(K Hughes)	600
4	James Boys Team	(M Jones)	714	114	Alca	(C Wright)	600
5	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	707	115	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
6	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	707	116	Alca	(K Howson)	600
7	Brain's Team	(B Howes)	700	117	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
8	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	700	118	Alca	(M Seber)	600
9	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	696	119	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
10	AB 4	(A Boyland)	697	120	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
11	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	696	121	Alca	(C Wright)	600
12	Nobby	(J Brown)	696	122	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
13	Dour Rangers 3	(J Clayton)	693	123	Alca	(K Howson)	600
14	Nonchalant AFC 3	(R J Ward)	688	124	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
15	Pts Ups Two	(P Turner)	688	125	Alca	(M Seber)	600
16	Diggers	(V Cook)	681	126	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
17	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	684	127	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
18	Bob's Boys 2	(R Calder)	683	128	Alca	(C Wright)	600
19	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	682	129	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
20	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	682	130	Alca	(K Howson)	600
21	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	681	131	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
22	Nobby 12	(J Brown)	681	132	Alca	(M Seber)	600
23	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	677	133	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
24	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	676	134	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
25	Turner's Earners 1	(P Turner)	675	135	Alca	(C Wright)	600
26	Scars	(B Wall)	674	136	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
27	Nobby's Art	(P Turner)	674	137	Alca	(K Howson)	600
28	Bessie's Cat	(P Turner)	672	138	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
29	Jabbarwally	(P A Amos)	671	139	Alca	(M Seber)	600
30	A	(M Corless)	668	140	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
31	Partick Billbo 3	(J Hamilton)	666	141	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
32	Byline Sports	(T Byline)	665	142	Alca	(C Wright)	600
33	James Boys Eight	(M Jones)	664	143	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
34	Turner's Earners 6	(P Turner)	661	144	Alca	(K Howson)	600
35	Nobby 23	(J Brown)	661	145	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
36	Unit Boys Utd 1	(S Gardner)	660	146	Alca	(M Seber)	600
37	Bladrunners	(P Walters)	659	147	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
38	Hunter's Mob	(C Hunter)	658	148	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
39	ABC	(M Seber)	658	149	Alca	(C Wright)	600
40	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	657	150	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
41	Bob's Boys 4	(R Calder)	656	151	Alca	(K Howson)	600
42	Inter The Stand	(M Ward)	655	152	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
43	Where's Ray Gone?	(P Fromm)	655	153	Alca	(M Seber)	600
44	SCFC 1996	(J Bisset)	654	154	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
45	James Boys Sky	(M Jones)	654	155	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
46	Turner's Earners 4	(P Turner)	653	156	Alca	(C Wright)	600
47	Midfield Magic	(J Pregon)	653	157	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
48	Schools For Goals	(R Crook)	652	158	Alca	(K Howson)	600
49	Tue	(S Roberts)	650	159	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
50	Kryston 2	(P Mills)	649	160	Alca	(M Seber)	600
51	Storm	(M Houn)	649	161	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
52	Thom Footy FC	(J Clayton)	648	162	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
53	Jan 2	(J Doughty)	648	163	Alca	(C Wright)	600
54	Garforth Seawolves	(B Bear)	647	164	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
55	Teddy Three	(J Hunt)	647	165	Alca	(K Howson)	600
56	John Hunt Taunton F	(R Crook)	644	166	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
57	Banley Boys	(J Brown)	644	167	Alca	(M Seber)	600
58	Nobby 13	(A Bales)	643	168	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
59	Elanore United	(P Leader)	642	169	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
60	Niffia	(R Loyley)	642	170	Alca	(C Wright)	600
61	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	642	171	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
62	Tulip's Tops	(J Tulip)	640	172	Alca	(K Howson)	600
63	Caroline 11	(A Luckhurst)	639	173	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
64	Walsley FC	(M Kilmwood)	639	174	Alca	(M Seber)	600
65	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	639	175	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
66	Orlando Classico	(J Bradshaw)	638	176	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
67	1970 Jr FC	(J Ross)	638	177	Alca	(C Wright)	600
68	Club 18-90 Teesa	(A Robson)	638	178	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
69	Tues C	(A Lobe)	637	179	Alca	(K Howson)	600

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1991	M Bick			111	Alca	(I Pigeon)	600
1992	N Waller			112	Alca	(N Ralcliffe)	600
1993	D Seaman			113	Alca	(K Hughes)	600
1994	V Barmen			114	Alca	(C Wright)	600
1995	J Luke			115	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
1996	M Boshch			116	Alca	(K Howson)	600
1997	M Davies			117	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
1998	T Flowers			118	Alca	(M Seber)	600
1999	S Oliver			119	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
2000	G Marshack			120	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
2001	S Kerr			121	Alca	(C Wright)	600
2002	D Kourbe			122	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
2003	K Ninkosack			123	Alca	(K Howson)	600
2004	F Goodes			124	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
2005	S Ogden			125	Alca	(M Seber)	600
2006	J Piller			126	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
2007	M Taylor			127	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
2008	R West			128	Alca	(C Wright)	600
2009	M Poom			129	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
2010	A Marlow			130	Alca	(K Howson)	600
2011	L Key			131	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
2012	S Dylston			132	Alca	(M Seber)	600
2013	N Wiscroft			133	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
2014	N Socha			134	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
2015	P Gerrard			135	Alca	(C Wright)	600
2016	G Rossell			136	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
2017	J Leighton			137	Alca	(K Howson)	600
2018	D Leckie			138	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
2019	M Bennett			139	Alca	(M Seber)	600
2020	P Evans			140	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
2021	M Martin			141	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
2022	K Poole			142	Alca	(C Wright)	600
2023	K Keefe			143	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
2024	D James			144	Alca	(K Howson)	600
2025	A Warner			145	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
2026	J Nielsen			146	Alca	(M Seber)	600
2027	P Schmidlin			147	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
2028	U van der Graaf			148	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
2029	G Rusc			149	Alca	(C Wright)	600
2030	S Roberts			150	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
2031	M Schweizer			151	Alca	(K Howson)	600
2032	S Howe			152	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
2033	S Halsey			153	Alca	(M Seber)	600
2034	P Strickel			154	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
2035	M Orosch			155	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
2036	A Fells			156	Alca	(C Wright)	600
2037	S Thurnham			157	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
2038	A Scar			158	Alca	(K Howson)	600
2039	A Dibble			159	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
2040	K Pressler			160	Alca	(M Seber)	600
2041	M Clarke			161	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
2042	D Beasant			162	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
2043	N Moss			163	Alca	(C Wright)	600
2044	M Taylor			164	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600
2045	L Pent			165	Alca	(K Howson)	600
2046	A Cohn			166	Alca	(M Larcombe)	600
2047	I Weller			167	Alca	(M Seber)	600
2048	E Beardsley			168	Alca	(K Farhall)	600
2049	L Malski			169	Alca	(S Bullock)	600
2050	N Schwin			170	Alca	(C Wright)	600
2051	P Heald			171	Alca	(M Bottomley)	600

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
20101	S McKenna		
20202	L Dixon		
20303	N Wetherburn		
20404	S Stanton		
20505	A Wright		
20606	G Davies		
20707	F Nelson		
20808	H Berg		
20909	G Le Saz		
21010	J Kenna		
21111	G Guff		
21212	J McKenna		
21313	T McKinley		
21414	D Palmer		
21515	S Clarke		
21616	S Little		
21717	D Barrow		
21818	B Barrow		
21919	M Hall		
22020	C Powell		
22121	D Yates		
22222	M Phillips		
22323	M Perry		
22424	N Duff		
22525	C Miller		
22626	A Tol		
22727	M Holtiger		
22828	A Fincham		
22929	T Phelan		
23030	C Barnett		
23131	C Locke		
23232	H Jackson		
23333	W Miller		
23434	A Dorr		
23535	G MacPherson		
23636	K Kelly		
23737	A Dosage		
23838	G Hebe		
23939	N Whitlow		
24040	S Grayson		
24141	F Relling		
24242	R Jones		
24343	S Hartman		
24444	S J. Storms		
24545	D Irvin		
24646	G Hewitt		
24747	P Neville		
24848	A Cox		
24949	C Morris		
25050	C Fleming		
25151	C Blackmore		
25252	V Kander		
25353	S McMillan		
25454	W Barton		
25555	R Watson		
25656	J Elliott		
25757	J Beresford		
25858	S Pearce		
25959	D Lytle		
26060	A Haslam		
26161	N Jerkin		
26262	D Pomer		
26363	D Robertson		
26464	D Robertson		
26565	J Brown		
26666	N Nolan		
26767	P Atherton		
26868	S Nicol		
26969	D Stefanovic		
27070	L Airdice		
27171	F Dodd		
27272	B Farrell		
27373	S Charlton		
27474	D Kowalski		
27575	M Scott		
27676	G Hall		
27777	J Eriksson		
27878	D Austin		
27979	C Wilson		
28080	C Edinburgh		
28181	G Kerlake		
28282	J Perry		
28383	J Deke		
28484	T Bucker		
28585	M Rowland		
28686	B Brown		
28787	C Thacker		
28888	A Kinsie		
28989	K Cunningham		
29090	D Jupp		
29191	C Perry		

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
29191	B Irvine		
29292	B Woodhouse		
29393	A Kumbhare		
29494	A Bama		
29595	B Dodd		
29696	K Brown		
29797	D Marshall		
29898	E Skingle		
29999	R Somers		

Team	(Player's name)	Pts
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The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Fee	Pos	Wt	On
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-12	
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0	-14	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	+5	+40	
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0	
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0	+1	
10301	M Bowditch	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+24	
10302	N Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	+2	+20	
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+1	0	
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+4	
10501	G Marshall	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	-1	
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	-1	+28	
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+10	
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0	-7	
10603	F Grodas	Chelsea	3.00	0	-5	
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-1	-33	
10702	J Folan	Coventry City	0.50	0	0	
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0	-7	
10802	R Hoult	Derby County	1.00	-2	-36	
10804	M Poom	Derby County	1.00	+1	-2	
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	+4	
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	-10	
10903	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.50	0	-4	
11001	I Westwater	Dundee United	0.50	-1	-55	
11002	N Southall	Everton	2.50	+4	-25	
11103	P Gerrard	Everton	1.50	0	+1	
11201	G Rousset	Hearts	2.00	+5	-3	
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	-1	-23	
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	-39	
11501	M Beesley	Leeds United	1.50	0	+5	
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	+5	+35	
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0	-16	
11603	K Kallier	Leicester City	1.00	-4	-18	
11701	D James	Liverpool	1.00	-1	+21	
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0	
11703	J Nielsen	Liverpool	1.00	0	0	
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	0	+7	
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	-3	+2	
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-20	
11902	B Roberts	Middlesbrough	1.50	-7	-4	
11903	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	2.00	+1	-3	
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	+5	-21	
12101	S Hisslop	Newcastle United	4.00	-1	-16	
12102	P Smith	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0	
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	-49	
12202	A Fettes	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	-2	
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	-9	-63	
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0	+29	
12402	A Dibble	Rangers	3.50	0	+5	
12501	K Greenman	Sheff Wednes	2.00	-2	+2	
12502	M Clarke	Sheff Wednes	0.50	0	0	
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0	-28	
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	+2	
12604	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	+4	+1	
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	-3	-45	
11803	A Colton	Sunderland	1.00	0	+9	
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	-4	-12	
12802	E Baardson	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
12901	L Mladkovic	West Ham United	2.00	+3	-23	
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	-5	-1	
13002	P Hauld	Wimbledon	1.00	-3	-4	

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Value
20101	S McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00	0 +8
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	+4+40
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	+4+49
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	0 -39
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	+5+61
20303	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0 0
20305	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	+2+48
20401	S Halsey	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+2+28
20402	G Leaux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+2+29
20403	J Kenne	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+2+22
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0 +2
20501	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	-1+35
20502	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.00	-1+19
20601	D Petruscu	Chelsea	3.00	+2+20
20602	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.00	+2 +7
20603	S Miles	Chelsea	1.00	0 -8
20701	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0 -8
20703	B Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0 -9
20704	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0 +6
20801	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	-1 -8
20802	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0 +4
20901	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	0+51
20902	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	0+51
20903	N O'Connell	Dundee United	0.50	0+7
21001	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	0 -5
21002	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	-1 -11
21101	M Hottiger	Everton	2.50	0 -8
21102	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	0+14
21201	T Phelan	Everton	2.00	+1 -1
21202	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	+4+28
21301	G Locke	Hibernian	1.00	+4+24
21302	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	0 +7
21401	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	0+12
21402	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50	0 -8
21501	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+4+43
21502	A Dorio	Leeds United	2.50	+4+14
21503	G Haffie	Leeds United	1.00	+4+33
21601	M Whitlow	Leicester City	0.50	-1 +5
21602	P Grogan	Leicester City	0.50	0+11
21701	R Folling	Leicester City	0.25	0 0
21702	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0 0
21703	S Harries	Liverpool	1.50	0 -1
21704	S Blomby	Liverpool	0.50	0+48
21801	D Irvine	Manchester United	4.00	0+40
21802	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0 -1
21803	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	-2 0
21901	N Cox	Middlesbrough	2.50	0 -11
21902	C Morris	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -1
21903	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.75	+2 +9
21904	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.25	+1+10
21905	V Kinner	Middlesbrough	1.50	+1 +2
22002	S McMillan	Motherwell	3.00	-1 +4
22101	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0+21
22102	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00	+3+13
22103	R Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50	0 +7
22104	J Beresford	Nottingham Forest	4.00	0+11
22201	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0 +5
22202	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0+20
22203	A Haskel	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0 -4
22204	N Jarran	Nottingham Forest	0.75	-1 -11
22301	P Grogan	Raith Rovers	0.50	-4 -11
22302	D Kirkwood	Raith Rovers	0.75	-3 -11
22401	D Robertson	Rangers	2.50	0+38
22402	J Brown	Rangers	2.00	0 0
22501	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+2+32
22502	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0+11
22503	S Nicol	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	-1+10
22504	D Stanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0 +3
22505	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	-3 -7
22601	J Dodd	Southampton	0.75	+4 -1
22602	F Benali	Southampton	0.75	0 +4
22603	S Charlton	Southampton	0.50	-1 +5
22701	D Kubicki	Sunderland	0.50	0 +4
22702	M Scott	Sunderland	0.25	0 +2
22703	G Hall	Sunderland	1.50	0 -1
22704	J Eriksson	Sunderland	2.00	-1 -4
22801	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0+12
22802	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	-2+12
22803	J Edinburg	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 0
22804	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0 -3
22901	S Carr	West Ham United	4.00	0+23
22902	J Dicks	West Ham United	1.00	0 +3
22903	T Breakspear	West Ham United	1.00	-2 -4
22904	K Rowland	West Ham United	1.00	0 +2
22905	M Bowen	West Ham United	1.00	0 +9
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	1.50	0+29
23002	A Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75	-2+25
23003	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75	-2 0
23004	D Jupp	Wimbledon	0.25	-3+36
23006	C Perry	Wimbledon	0.25	-3+36

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Pts	Wk	OV
30101	B Irvine	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-6	
30102	C Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	1.50	+4	+3	
30103	A Kombouars	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+3	
30201	A Adams	Arsenal	4.00	+7	+43	
30202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	+4	+41	
30203	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	+4	+50	
30204	S Marshall	Arsenal	1.00	0	+14	
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	+3	+37	
30302	U Elogu	Aston Villa	3.00	+3	+66	
30303	R Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+28	



Speed's goal for Everton has given his club breathing space from the relegation mêlée and lifted his ITF tally to 64

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Wt	Dr
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	+2+32	
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+4 +4	
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-0 -5	
30404	N Marter	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	+4 +6	
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	0+29	
30502	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50	0+37	
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	0+19	
30504	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00	0 +1	
30505	E Annoni	Celtic	3.00	0 +4	
30601	M Duffery	Chelsea	2.50	0 +1	
30602	F Lebovici	Chelsea	2.50	+2+31	
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	+1 -3	
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0 +3	
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0 0	
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	+4+15	
30701	L Dutsch	Coventry City	2.00	0 +5	
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0 +5	
30703	G Breen	Coventry City	1.50	0 -1	
30704	A Shakhok	Coventry City	1.50	0 +1	
30705	I Simac	Coventry City	2.50	0 -10	
30802	D Wessell	Derby County	1.00	0 0	
30803	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0 -2	
30803	J Laurens	Derby County	1.00	0+10	
30804	M Carbone	Derby County	0.50	0 -8	
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	0+51	
31001	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75	0 -8	
31002	I Den Biezen	Dunfermline	0.75	0 -17	
31101	D Urquhart	Everton	2.50	0+16	
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	+4+15	
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	-1 +6	
31201	D McPherson	Everton	1.00	+4+31	
31202	P Ritchie	Everton	1.00	+3+35	
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0 +7	
31302	G Walsh	Hibernian	0.75	0 +9	
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0 -3	
32302	S Dennis	Hibernian	1.00	0 +18	
31401	M Bailey	Kilmarnock	1.00	0 +7	
31402	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	0 +8	
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	+4+35	
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0 +2	
31503	L Radcliffe	Leeds United	1.00	0+23	
31504	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0 0	
31505	R McNamee	Leeds United	2.00	0+24	
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	0+12	
31602	C Wicks	Leicester City	1.00	0 +8	
31603	P Kearns	Leicester City	0.50	0 +6	
31604	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00	-1 +2	
31605	M Elliott	Leicester City	1.50	-2 +7	
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0+24	
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0+32	
31704	N Ruddick	Liverpool	3.00	0+14	
31705	D Skiffing	Liverpool	0.50	0+25	
31801	B T Kvarme	Liverpool	2.00	0 +5	
31801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	-1+10	
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	0+34	
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	-1+21	
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 +3	
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	+2 -10	
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.00	0 -10	
31904	M Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0 -7	
31905	G Fesli	Middlesbrough	1.50	+4 +8	
32001	M Martin	Motherwell	1.50	-4 -4	
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	+4+18	
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	0+18	
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +7	
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0+17	
32202	C Thompson	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0 +5	
32202	S Cheliff	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0+10	
32203	S Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0 -5	
32303	D Craig	Raith Rovers	0.50	-4 -7	
32304	G Mitchell	Raith Rovers	0.50	-4 -5	
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	0+57	
32402	A McLennan	Rangers	3.00	0+18	
32403	C McKelvie	Rangers	3.50	0+38	
32404	G Peirce	Rangers	2.50	0+14	
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0+15	
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	-1+32	
32503	B Urquhart	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0 0	
32601	K Monkton	Southampton	1.50	0 -18	
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	1.00	0 +3	
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	0 -2	
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	0.50	+4 0	
32605	U van Gobel	Southampton	1.50	-4 -15	
32701	A Melville	Sunderland	1.00	0+12	
32702	K Boudry	Sunderland	1.00	-1 +8	
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	-1+10	
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1+20	
31702	J Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1 +9	
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0+14	
32803	G Mabbott	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0 0	
32804	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 -6	
32807	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0 -1	
32901	S Bilic	West Ham United	2.50	+1+12	
32902	M Ripper	West Ham United	2.50	+3 +9	
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	+2 0	
32904	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	+2 +2	
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	0 +4	
33001	A McAllister	Wimbledon	1.00	0 0	
33003	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0 0	
33004	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	-2+16	
33005	M McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	-2+12	
33006	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0 0	

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TUESDAY APRIL 15 1997

Double boost on UK inflation outlook

By Alan P. Murray

TOUGH competition among retailers is curbing inflation in the high street. The British Retail Consortium (BRC) today reports a slowdown in the rate at which the value of retail sales is growing to 3.7 per cent in March, from 4.3 per cent in February.

There was further good news on inflation when official statistics disclosed a fall in factory-gate prices in March. The combination triggered City speculation that a widely expected half-point rise in base rates next month could be averted, with economists suggesting a quarter-point rise might be enough.

Andrew Sentance, chief economist adviser to the BRC, said that with the pound remaining strong the downward pressure on inflation to continue.

Sales growth was strongest in non-food areas, with products ranging from DIY goods to suncreams boosted by the warm weather and early Easter. But the BRC added that consumers were still cautious about buying larger items, such as audio equipment and furniture.

Separate data yesterday showed that manufacturing output prices fell 0.1 per cent in March — the second successive monthly drop — against City expectations of a 0.2 per cent rise. The annual rate of increase fell from 1.2 per cent to 1 per cent.

Input prices, which reflect the costs of raw materials, also fell 0.5 per cent in March, with the annual rate showing a drop of 7.7 per cent against a fall of 6.9 per cent in February.

Economists said raw material prices were likely to remain subdued in the next few months, helping to push inflation lower.

Jonathan Loyne, UK economist at HSBC Markets, added that the figures implied that any post-election rise in interest rates need be only modest.

The improving inflation outlook helped to send the pound lower on the foreign exchanges yesterday, with traders concluding that rates were now unlikely to rise by half a point next month. Sterling closed down about half a penny at DM2.7960, while the trade-weighted index slipped from 99.7 to close at 99.4.

The retail price inflation figures for March are due out on Thursday, with the City predicting that underlying inflation, which excludes mortgage payments, will fall from 2.9 per cent to 2.7 per cent.

The Office for National Statistics said the fall in producer prices was due to a drop in the price of crude oil and a seasonal fall in the price of electricity for industrial customers.



Bright sparks: Hugh Langmuir, left, director of Cinven, the venture capital house that is funding the £135 million management buyout of Hanson's electrical businesses. Chris Thomas, right, becomes the chief executive of the renamed Electrium. The deal includes nine brands. Story, page 28

Co-op £6bn merger proposal is rejected

By Jason Nisse

THE Co-operative Retail Society has rejected a proposal by Graham Melmoth, chief executive of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, to bring the various parts of the Co-operative movement together to create a £6 billion retailing giant.

Mr Melmoth suggested the merger of the CRS and CWS while announcing a 21 per cent fall in trading profits at CWS to £41.5 million in 1996. Pre-tax profits fell £10.1 million to £68.2 million after the payment of dividends to the society's corporate members.

The organisation, with interests from food retailing to funeral parlours and embracing the Co-operative Bank, faces pressure from Andrew Regan, the entrepreneur whose Lancia Trust is pushing to buy part of the CWS.

Mr Melmoth admitted the need for a wide-ranging rethink of the CWS's strategy but denied this was prompted by Mr Regan's attentions. "It is my priority to bring the main players of the Co-opera-

tive movement together," Mr Melmoth said. "I hope to do this in 1997."

His plan would be to merge the two buying confederations — the CWS's Co-operative Retail Trading Group and CRS's Consortium of Independent Co-operatives — before a more far-reaching restructuring of the 133-year-old movement.

The CRS, which proposed a similar plan three years ago only to see it rejected by the CWS, was not impressed. Harry Moore, CRS chief executive, said: "In theory there is no argument that the Co-operative movement would benefit if there was one organisation. CRS has spent much of the last 12 years trying to achieve a merger, but to no avail. On each occasion it has proved a massive distraction to most societies and there are no indications that we could be more successful by going back to the negotiating table at this point."

The possibility of a merger of the societies has been on the agenda virtually since the CWS moved into retailing, with the

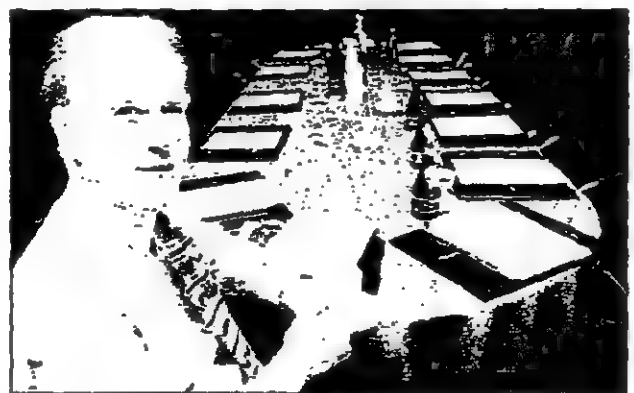
takeover of the South Surburban and Royal Arsenal Co-operatives in the mid-1980s. Lack of progress has prompted interest from the City, but nothing happened until Mr Regan's moves, which started in February.

Shares of Lancia Trust, Mr Regan's quoted vehicle, are suspended on the Stock Exchange, but he claims the support of a number of wealthy individuals in Monte Carlo for his tilt at the Co-operative movement through Galileo, a special purpose company.

However, Galileo has missed the deadline to submit a motion to the CWS annual shareholder meeting in Manchester next month. Instead, the CWS is to put forward a motion expected to be critical of any moves by Mr Regan, who Mr Melmoth described as "an asset-stripping middleman". The 30-strong

board of the CWS discussed talks with Mr Regan at a meeting last month and voted unanimously against such a move. The societies represented by the board members command 70 per cent of the vote in the CWS, though there are 300 corporate members from as far away as the Falkland Islands and Switzerland. Mr Regan only needs the support of ten corporate members to put a motion to the AGM or call an EGM.

Mr Melmoth said CWS's retail side had suffered a disappointing year, but this was largely because of strong competition from Tesco in Scotland. The CWS has responded by launching a dividend card, a swipe card which works like the old Co-op divi to collect points exchangeable for consumer goods. It was launched last month and initial take-up has been good. The CWS hopes to extend it throughout the UK.



Graham Melmoth admitted the need for a rethink

Accountants 'shield' launderers

By Adam Jones

ACCOUNTANTS and solicitors stand accused of shielding clients whom they suspect of money laundering. Those who should be best placed to detect financial malpractice are proving the least forthcoming in blowing the whistle.

The latest police statistics show they gave far fewer tip-offs than banks. Independent financial advisers and bureaux de change in 1996. Their contribution to the fight against "dirty money" was yesterday described as minuscule by Prem Sikka, Professor of Accounting at the University of Essex, and a prominent member of the accounting profession. Finance profession-

als have a statutory obligation to inform police of transactions that suggest a client is involved in laundering drug money or helping terrorism. They face prison sentences of up to five years for non-disclosure, or 14 years if they are found guilty of aiding and abetting money laundering. No one has yet been prosecuted.

Last year, police at the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) received 16,125 tip-offs, a rise from 13,710 in 1995. The bulk of disclosures, 49 per cent, came from banks. Building societies supplied a further 29 per cent. Seven per cent of tip-offs came from bureaux de change and 3 per cent from insurers.

Solicitors were responsible for 2 per

cent and accountants for just 0.5 per cent of the total. This represents about 80 tip-offs, an increase from about 55 in 1995. However, Professor Sikka, said this was still "minuscule". He said: "Accountants don't tell the police about many instances of money laundering or suspicious transactions."

He said some accountants may be unaware of the statutory disclosure requirement. Others, asked to set up spurious shell companies or similar devices, may be fully aware of what their client is doing. Professor Sikka said accountancy firms maintained a secrecy that needs to be challenged. Insurers supplied 447 tip-offs, down from 636 in 1995.

Bardon and Camas merge

By Paul Durman

BARDON and Camas, the quarrying companies, have agreed a £540 million merger that will create Britain's fifth largest aggregates group.

The new company will be called Aggregate Industries, and have 22 billion tonnes of the mineral reserves that are the source of crushed rock, sand and gravel. In the UK, it will rank behind Tarmac, ARC, RMC and Redland.

Maurice Warren, chairman of Camas, will be chairman of

Aggregate, while Bardon's Peter Tom will be chief executive. Five Camas directors and four Bardon directors are to join the new board.

Alan Shearer, 57, the Camas chief executive, is to retire with an estimated pay-off of about £400,000 in settlement of his two-year contract.

Bardon is offering two new shares for each share in Camas. Bardon shares yesterday added 3p to 44½p, and Camas climbed 9½p to 93½p. Bardon's shareholders will own 48.3 per cent of Aggre-

gate, while Camas shareholders will own 51.7 per cent.

Combined, the two companies had sales last year of £656.2 million and made pre-tax profits of £46.2 million. They expect to save at least £10 million from increased purchasing power and other efficiencies. Aggregate will close the head offices in Solihull and Cheltenham, and plans a new one in the Warwick/Leamington Spa area.

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City Diary, page 31

Glaxo attacked over US political donations

By Jason Nisse

GLAXO Wellcome, the pharmaceutical company, is to come under fire from shareholders for giving \$500,000 to US political parties without revealing this in its report and accounts.

The group gave up making political donations in the UK two years ago and states in its annual report, in the section headed Political Donations, that: "The company does not make political donations in the UK." Any UK donation of more than £200 has to be declared under law.

However, in response to a letter from Pirc, the corporate governance consultants, Glaxo has acknowledged that it made \$265,000 of political donations through its US operation in the 18 months to June 1996. After further enquiries by *The Times*, Glaxo admitted the figure for the two years to December 1996 was "approximately" \$500,000. Of this most was given to the Republican Party and nearly half was spent in the four months running up to last year's presidential election.

On top of this, Glaxo said it gave \$680,000 through Political Action Committees, via which voluntary donations by employees are collected by the company. Again most went to the Republicans.

Pirc, which has also written to BAT Industries and Smith-Kline Beecham asking for disclosure of their US donations, is recommending that shareholders vote against approving Glaxo's report and accounts over the issue of the non-disclosure of the US payments.

Anne Simpson, a Pirc director, said: "We consider such an expenditure should be approved by the shareholders in advance via a resolution stating the amount, beneficiary and reasons for the expenditure."

Her views are echoed by the National Association of Pension Funds, which has a policy of demanding disclosure of all political donations, and the Association of British Insurers. Richard Regan, the ABI's investment director, said: "The ABI supports the principle that political donations should be disclosed." Hermes, the Post Office and BT pension fund, has a policy of objecting to all political donations.

Glaxo said the payments were a normal part of business in the US and were insignificant when measured against the group's US profits.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4251.7	(-19.0)
Yield	3.79%	
FTSE All share	2070.0	(-8.82)
Nikkei	17652.47	(-154.51)
Dow Jones	8375.84	(-14.85)
S&P Composite	735.55	(-1.70)

LIB RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	93 1/4%	(93 1/4%)
Yield	7.17%	(7.17%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Little long gilt	108 1/2%	(108 1/2%)

STERLING

New York	1.6225*	(1.6275)
London	1.8227	(1.8250)
DM	2.7964	(2.8015)
FF	9.4047	(9.4247)
Sfr	2.3829	(2.3853)
Yen	125.47*	(125.57)
£ index	98.4	(98.7)

US \$ & DOLLAR

London	1.7248*	(1.7215)
DM	5.5012*	(5.7905)
Sfr	1.4888*	(1.4810)
Yen	125.47*	(125.57)
£ index	108.0	(108.0)

TOKYO CLOSE YEN 128.45

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$18.40	(\$18.05)
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GOLD

London close	\$348.88	(\$347.00)
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* denotes midday trading price

Dash for cash at Alliance

By Gavin Lumsden

MORE than a quarter of Alliance & Leicester members have opted to sell their shares in the building society when it floats next week.

This is more than expected and eases the pressure on institutions seeking to buy the new stock, but could serve to undermine the share price when trading begins.

Cazenove, the stockbroker in charge of the society's free dealing service, said 27.5 per cent of members, around 620,000 savers, were disposing of about 160 million shares. This will raise between £1,000 and £1,100 each. Cazenove is selling the shares to institutional investors in a series of auctions starting on Friday afternoon.

The high number immediately cashing in the shares surprised analysts who had expected "carpet-baggers" to hang on amid speculation that Alliance will be taken over after flotation.

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GM drives to \$1.8bn in quarter

General Motors, the automotive manufacturer, lifted first-quarter profits from continuing operations to \$1.8 billion, from \$800 million in the previous first quarter, when a strike disrupted production.

Earnings per share were \$2.30, up from 93 cents. Group sales grew to \$42.26 billion (\$39.24 billion).

GM said that it was the best quarter in more than ten years for its North American operations.

Appleyard fall

Pre-tax profits of Appleyard, the motor dealer, fell 50 per cent to £3.2 million, in 1996, excluding £8.6 million of restructuring costs. Turnover was £783 million (£694.3 million). Post-tax profits were £0.4p (7.5p earnings). A 1.6p final dividend makes 4.7p (6.2p). The Serious Fraud Office is investigating one dealership.

Dinkie 8% up

Dinkie Heel, the footwear group, lifted 1996 pre-tax profits by 8 per cent, to £641,000, on sales up from £7.5 million to £9.2 million. The year's dividend rises from 1.5p to 1.6p after an unchanged 1p final.

Arcadian gain

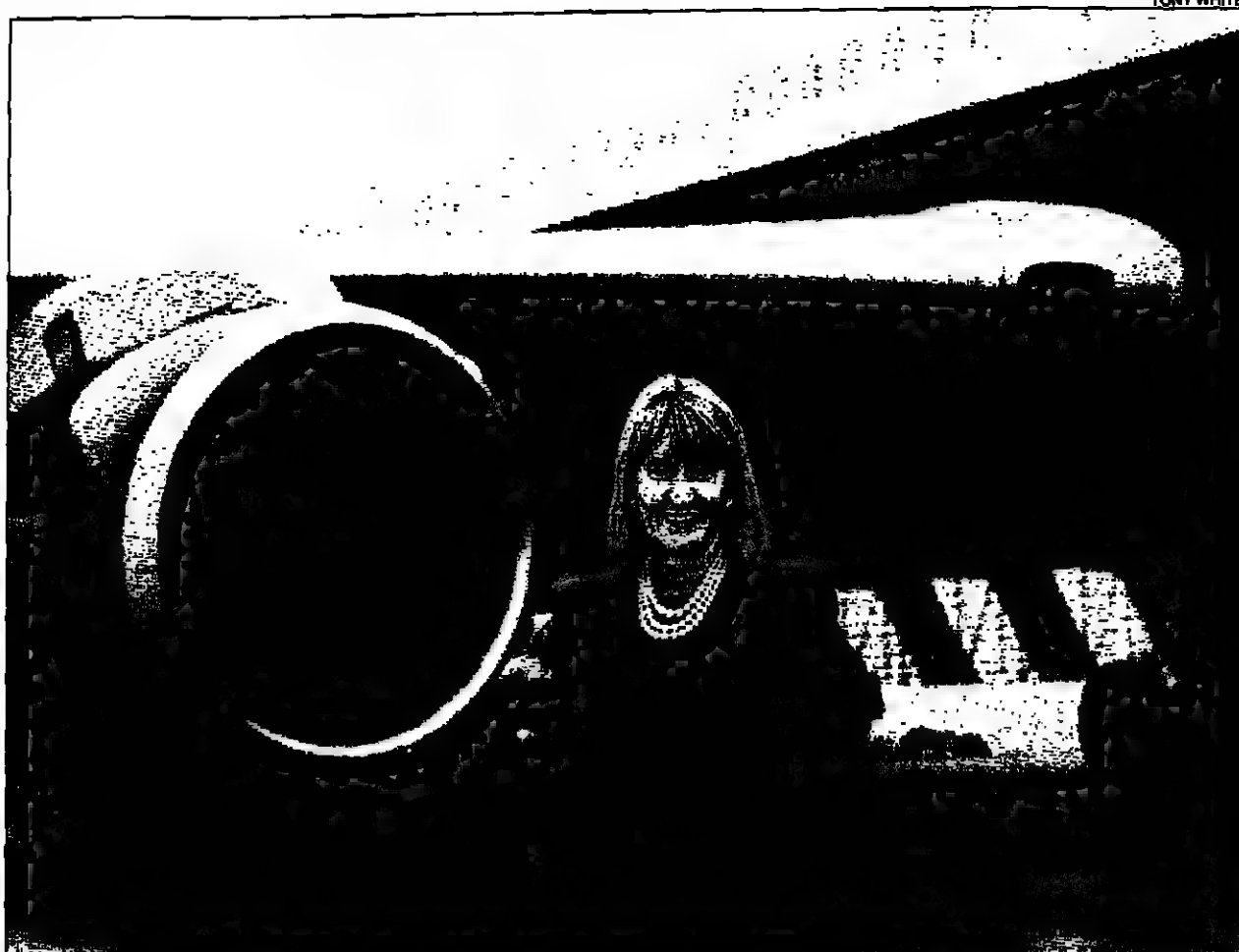
Arcadian, the leisure developer, lifted 1996 pre-tax profits to £3.7 million, from £1.7 million, on turnover of £30.5 million (£20.4 million). A 1.08p final dividend makes 1.2p (1p).

Arlen ahead

Arlen, the electrical manufacturer and distributor, lifted pre-tax profits to £4.5 million, from £3.9 million, on sales of £28.8 million (£28.1 million). A 0.8p final takes the year dividend from 0.7p to 1.2p.

Bruce & Partners

Bruce & Partners, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire, has no connection with the independent financial adviser of the same name in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, that is the subject of legal action by the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux.



Janis Kong, managing director of BAA Gatwick, has seen traffic surge in March, helping BAA to a passenger record

BAA has record 98m passengers

AIR traffic at Gatwick and Stansted surged ahead in March, helping BAA to achieve a record total of 98 million passengers passing through the terminals of its seven UK airports in the past year, up 4.6 per cent (Carl Mortished writes).

Traffic at Gatwick was up 12.4 per cent in March, compared with a year ago, and up 6.9 per cent over the entire year. The increase stemmed, in part, from the transfer by British Airways of Latin American and African flights from Heathrow.

Overall traffic growth was held back by a 6.4 per cent decline in European charters after a reduction in capacity by tour operators. BAA said that this was over and that the charter market had grown by 6.7 per cent in March. Charter traffic grew by 44 per cent at Stansted, giving the airport a 19 per cent rise in throughput in the 1996/7 financial year. Long-haul traffic grew by 7 per cent in the past year.

Tempest, page 30

Hanson plans sale of electrical division to buyout for £135m

By FRASER NELSON

HANSON, the former conglomerate that completed a four-part demerger in February, is to sell its electrical division to management in a deal backed by Cinven, the venture capital house, for £135 million.

The deal, Hanson's first disposal since concluding the break-up two months ago, will reduce the company to a building materials

companies and a crane distributor. Hanson will receive £125 million in cash, and has agreed to lend Cinven the remaining £10 million.

Cinven has agreed to spend a further £10 million completing the restructuring plan set into action by Hanson, including the closure of the factory in Walsall, West Midlands.

The deal includes nine electrical brands, including Crabtree, Volex, Marbo and Dorman Smith. The business

employs more than 3,000 people and operates six factories in the UK, with plants in France, Dubai and Malaysia.

The business, which has assets of £58 million, generated 6 per cent of Hanson's operating profit last year making £14.4 million on sales of £146 million. Seventy per cent of its sales are generated in the United Kingdom.

Cinven, itself formed through a buyout from British Coal two years ago, will back

the existing management. The company will be renamed Electrium.

Chris Thomas, who joined Hanson 16 years ago when it acquired Ever Ready, will become chief executive and David Norman and Andrew Kitchen become joint managing directors.

Andrew Douglas, Hanson's chief executive, said that the sale continued its strategy of returning to its building products roots. He said that the

move was in line with last month's £78 million acquisition of Concrete Pipes and Products, which shot Hanson to the leading position in the US pipes market.

The move had been expected in the City, and Hanson's shares rose 3p to 298½p. Analysts said the electrical business did not fit with the company's global ambitions. Some expect the crane division will be the next for the auction block in the long term, but nothing is expected until the end of the year.

Hanson, which first moved into wiring in 1982, was building up its electrical arm as late as 1995 after buying the electrical cordset business of Moulinex.

Hanson, which 12 months ago ran an empire spanning tobacco, chemicals and energy companies, is now valued at £1.92 billion and is close to falling out of the FT-SE 100. Its shares closed 2p up at 297½p yesterday.

GEC-Alsthom wins £100m train deal

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

GATWICK EXPRESS yesterday became the second privatised rail operator to place a big order for new trains, with a £100 million deal for GEC-Alsthom.

The order is expected to be followed by a steady stream of

purchases in what will amount to at least £1.5 billion of work on new rolling stock as new rail franchises honour agreements reached with the regulator when they bid for former British Rail routes.

National Express Group, owner of Gatwick Express, struck the deal with GEC-

Alsthom — one of three large UK-based train manufacturers — after more than 20 international groups bid for the order. The manufacturer faces strict financial penalties if it fails to deliver the eight trains in the record time stipulated in the deal. GEC-Alsthom has fallen behind with three other

orders, including work for London Underground.

The Gatwick Express order helps to secure the 1,800 jobs at GEC-Alsthom's main plant, at Washwood Heath, Birmingham. The new trains are expected to cut five minutes off the 30 minute journey from London to the airport.

Shoe plan could cost Sears £300m

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SEARS could face costs of up to £300 million if it proceeds with plans to sell or close large parts of its troubled British Shoe Corporation subsidiary, according to City analysts.

Liam Strong, the beleaguered chief executive, will present a restructuring plan to the board of Sears next week, hoping to put an end to persistent calls for his resignation.

Mr Strong, whose plan is not yet finalised, is thought likely to propose that large parts of BSC be closed or sold. Nick Bubb, retail analyst with Mee's Pierson, said that such a move could cost between £200 million and £300 million.

With efforts being made to sell Freemans, Sears's catalogue business, the group could be left with just Selfridges and its women's wear division.

Sir Bob Reid, chairman of Sears, continues to back Mr Strong, but speculation is growing that efforts will be made by non-executive directors and institutional shareholders to unseat him.

If Mr Strong's proposal is accepted by the board, details are likely to be announced at the same time as results on April 22.

Pearl gives AMP a boost

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

A ONE-OFF payment to shareholders from surplus assets in the life fund led to a better than expected result at Pearl, the UK pensions provider, and helped to flatter profits at AMP.

AMP, which is preparing to demutualise, yesterday unveiled a rise in profits from £81.9 billion to £82.1 billion (about £1 billion) for 1996. The figures were swelled by an improvement in Pearl's new business written which rose from £87 million to just under £90 million.

Pearl's profit figures have yet to be released, but will include a one-off payment of £35 million from the "orphan" or surplus assets in the life fund.

A further £960 million has been approved by the Department of Trade and Industry as attributable to Pearl's shareholders, but AMP has promised to keep the sum in Pearl's long-term life fund for at least five years. Pearl's two million with-profits policyholders will share in a £315 million special bonus. The individual payments will vary in size.

AMP also revealed that Virgin Direct, the 50-50 joint venture with the Virgin Group, has pulled in more than £50 million in the past week.

Avonmore launches bid for Waterford

AVONMORE FOODS has launched its formal offer for Waterford, the fellow Irish foods manufacturer, valuing the target at Ir£28 million. Waterford revealed on Friday that it had received an approach from Avonmore that might lead to a bid. Yesterday it said it had received a formal proposal to form an enlarged group to be called Avonmore Waterford Group and that it was considering the offer. Another statement will be made in due course.

Under the deal, which Avonmore emphasised was a friendly offer, Waterford shareholders would be offered one Avonmore share for every two Waterford shares in an all-share deal valuing the target's shares at 114p compared with a price of 95p at close of business on Friday. Avonmore said the food sector was facing a period of enormous change and challenge that could "potentially have very adverse effects on the incomes and livelihoods of farmer members of both organisations".

Shield allays fears

SHIELD DIAGNOSTICS, the Dundee company with a potentially revolutionary test for the risk of heart disease, has sought to calm investor fears that Drew Scientific has developed a rival product. Shield said it is working on ways to detect homocysteine, believed to be a cause of heart disease. A possible test for homocysteine is understood to be the basis of the recent surge in Drew's share price from 20p to 140p. Shield shares ended down 30p at 607½p, having touched 572½p.

Fyffes issues warning

FYFFES, the fresh produce group that acquired Geest's banana business a year ago, said yesterday that half-year profits may fall below last year's level after subdued trading in the first few months of this year. Neil McCann, chairman, blamed falling prices and unfavourable currency trends. Trading has since picked up and the company is hoping for a better second half. At the halfway stage last year, pre-tax profits were up 16.8 per cent at Ir£20.8 million. Fyffes shares fell 4p to 95p.

BT seeks MCI approval

BT is today seeking shareholder approval to buy MCI, America's second largest long distance phone company, for £13 billion. The two companies have just formed an alliance with Portugal Telecom, which is to become the exclusive distributor of the joint BT/MCI Concert services in Portugal, with BT spending £46 million for a 1 per cent stake in Portugal Telecom and MCI buying 0.5 per cent for £23 million. Concert provides voice and data products. Pennington, page 29.

Flextech joint venture

SHAREHOLDERS of Flextech, the cable and satellite TV programmer, yesterday approved the formation of a £150 million joint venture with BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC. The joint venture is to launch eight new subscription TV channels, most of them based on BBC programming, in the autumn. Flextech is controlled by Telecommunications International, the overseas arm of TCI, America's largest cable company.

Wardle Storeys steady

WARDLE STOREYS, the parachutes and plastic sheeting company, reported pre-tax profits unchanged at £4.82 million in the six months to February 28. Gains made by its inflatable products arm were offset by the completion of several contracts in other divisions. Turnover of £54.11 million compared with £53.79 million previously. Earnings fell to 12.3p (12.5p) a share, but the interim dividend rises 8.3 per cent to 6.5p. It is due July 1.

Granada write-off

GRANADA, the media and hotels group, is to write off about £160 million of goodwill associated with the acquisition several years ago of its computer services operations. The write-down, a non-cash adjustment, will appear in the interim profit and loss statement in June. The division, which made profits of £9 million last year, provides computer maintenance to corporations and a computer disaster recovery service. There is speculation that Granada is preparing to sell the business.

Coca-Cola advances

COCA-COLA reported a 38 per cent jump in first-quarter earnings to \$987 million from \$713 million. Sales fell 2 per cent to \$4.1 billion, after the disposal of bottling operations in France, Belgium and Germany. Earnings were 40 cents a share, including a gain of 8 cents from the sale of its 49 per cent stake in Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages, up from 28 cents. Worldwide case volume was up 9 per cent and included a similar 9 per cent volume growth in America.

Doeflex leaps 59%

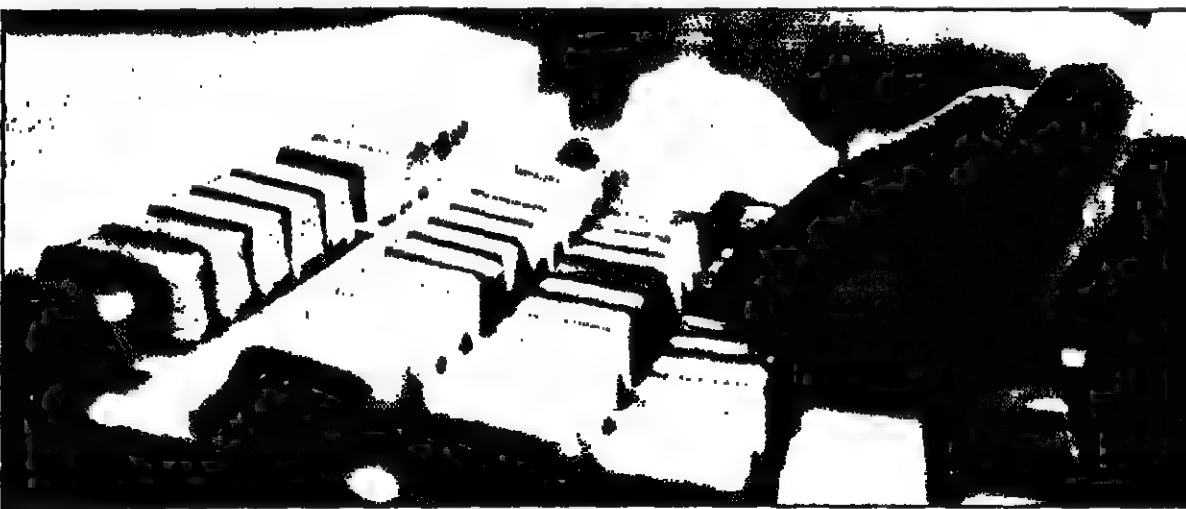
DOEFLEX, the chemical technology group, raised pre-tax profits by 89 per cent to £4.8 million in the year to December 31 after a 26 per cent rise in sales to £72.4 million. Earnings per share rose 31 per cent to 22.4p and total dividends went up 15 per cent to 7.7p after a rise in the final from 4.6p to 5.2p. Richard Bickerton, the chairman, said: "We believe we are well equipped to continue to produce consistent above average growth in dividends and earnings per share."

Jarvis shares improve

SHARES of Jarvis, the construction and facilities management group, rose 15½p to 240p after it announced stronger than expected trading for the six months to March 31. The company, which bought one of Railtrack's maintenance construction units last year and was recently selected as preferred bidder for the first school to be built under the Private Finance Initiative, said that its rationalisation costs had also been lower than expected.

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- > On the 28th of January Reuters journalists filed more than 13,000 stories using over 900,000 words around the globe.
- > Only significant stories make the daily ranking of the global "top 100" most accessed Reuters stories.
- > On the 28th January, the three stories filed by Reuters on the European Larger Company Survey were ranked 74th, 87th and 89th.



	Number of companies	Market Cap \$bn	Fund Management Groups	Sell side Analysts
UK Larger Company	350	1,415	100	1,740
UK Smaller Company	750	115	100	1,224
Continental European Larger Company	350	2,374	100	2,766
Global Emerging Market Company	1,200	688	150	1,889
US Larger Company	500	5,972	150	Pub. June

The 1997 UK Larger Company survey, published on Tuesday 15th April, is now available for purchase.

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Ostrich scheme man faces DTI attack on new project

By ROBERT MILLER

A COMPANY executive previously involved with an ostrich farming venture and a failed pyramid selling scheme is understood to be running the latest money circulation venture to be the target of legal action by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Inquiries by The Times have found that Kevin Jones, who used to head Alchemy, a pyramid selling scheme wound up by the DTI in 1994 after 6,000 people lost about £3 million, is the operator and controller behind Illuminati.

Last year Mr Jones was

recruited to market the Ostrich Farming Corporation (OFC), in which investors bought ostriches for as much as £14,500 a bird. The OFC is the subject of an investigation by the Serious Fraud Office.

In the High Court last week, the DTI, acting on "public interest" grounds, sought to have Drukwerk Adviesburo View, a Dutch company trading in the UK as Illuminati, wound up. The Official Receiver was appointed provisional liquidator to the scheme until a full hearing on May 21.

Mr Jones, who is named in documents filed in the High Court, is believed to run Illuminati from The Netherlands, where the company was incorporated in 1974 as a marketing agency. The sole director is Edwinus White.

Thousands of Illuminati investors were recruited at meetings held throughout the UK, but mainly in London, the Midlands and the North West. Illuminati had an entry fee of £600.

The DTI has acted against 17 money circulation schemes, in which investors have lost more than £25 million. The largest of these was Titan, a scheme described in Parliament as "an iniquitous pyramid selling scam".

TOUR RATE

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.17	2.21
Austria S	20.85	18.12
Belgium Fr	60.72	65.23
Canada \$	2.388	2.218
Cyprus Cyp	0.889	0.839
Denmark Kr	11.20	10.40
Finland Mk	8.86	8.18
France Fr	2.34	2.14
Germany Dm	2.96	2.74
Greece Dr	455	429
Hong Kong \$	12.54	12.04
Iceland Kr	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.10	1.02
Israel S	5.91	5.16
Italy Lira	2009	1700
Japan Yen	210.70	203.70
Malta	0.682	0.632
Netherlands Gld	0.667	0.627
New Zealand \$	2.49	2.27
Norway Kr	11.34	11.04
Portugal Esc	201.50	271.50
S Africa Rd	7.82	7.07
Spain Ps	200.50	200.50
Sweden Kr	13.18	12.18
Switzerland Fr	2.30	2.22
Swedish Lira	220.75	200.75
USA \$	1.725	1.599

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□ Regan the Barbarian cannot breach the mutual gate □ BT's MCI deal prompts question □ Cordiant hunts for a strategy

Don Quixote tilts at the Co-op

□ EITHER Andrew Regan is the Don Quixote of corporate finance or he knows something everyone else does not. Attempting to take over a mutual society is a pretty thankless task — as Nick Ward at Macarthy's, the drug distributor, found when he tried to mount a bid for UniChem when it was a mutual society. The defeat brought about Mr Ward's own demise, ending up at Brent Walker. Add the facts that the CWS board is apparently unanimously against Mr Regan's proposals (despite not having received them yet), and that it speaks for 70 per cent of the votes within CWS, and his attack looks like tilting at windmills.

But judging by yesterday's nervous presentation to the City full of comments about "black propaganda" and "asset-stripping middlemen" — the Co-operative Wholesale Society has been unsettled by young Mr Regan. Having been in the job less than six months, Graham Melmoth, the CWS chief executive, sounded less than convincing when he said radical plans to shake up the Co-operative movement had not been hurried by the attentions of Mr Regan's Lanica or Galileo or whatever he is calling his bidding group today.

Mr Melmoth's masterplan in-

volves bringing together the CWS, the Co-operative Retail Society, the Co-operative Retail Trading Group and the Consortium of Independent Co-operatives into one group which will buy and sell collectively under the Co-op name. The business will have more than £4 billion of sales in food retailing, putting it about fifth, saving millions in costs. This seems such a sensible suggestion that one wonders why no one thought of it before. Well they did, in 1994, when a CRS proposal was rejected by guess who? That's right. The CWS. And the CRS is none too pleased about the CWS's U-turn.

Mr Regan is therefore taking on the role of a barbarian at the gate — though not a particularly fearsome or well-backed one. Faced by an attack on "13 years of Co-operative trading" the movement is galvanising itself so that it may organise into a coherent structure and get rid of some of the things that it really should not own, such as a shirt

maker, a chain of Volvo garages or an airport in East Anglia. Then it can concentrate on what it is good at, retailing. These supposedly disastrous figures show CWS with a 4 per cent profit margin in its specialist retailing businesses and just 1 per cent on its food side. The group should be making 10 per cent and 5 per cent respectively, giving it a profit of about £150 million. This would mean it was worth much more than £1 billion, putting it well out of the reach of Mr Regan who will have spent more than £1 million of his and his friends' money to be little more than a stalking horse.

Dreams so far from reality

□ WEMBLEY is known as the field of dreams. But British Telecom shareholders gathering there this morning are in for a nasty dose of reality once they cast their votes in favour of BT's £13 billion purchase of MCI, the

PENNINGTON



American long-distance carrier. BT claims that with MCI at its side they can stride together to conquer new markets and is so certain that shareholders will buy into the dream that it will pay MCI \$450 million if the unthinkable happens and they give it the thumbs down.

There is another virtual certainty today. Unless some canny shareholders ask, Sir Iain Vallance and Sir Peter Bonfield will not volunteer their thoughts on the US Telecommunications Act, the most radical piece of communications legislation since AT&T was dismantled in the early 1980s. The Act, which

came into effect last year, was designed to eliminate the industry's remaining trade barriers, allowing the long-distance carriers such as MCI, the regional and local carriers, and the cable companies to compete in each other's markets.

The Act was supposed to trigger a free-for-all, but it has created more problems than it has solved. The local monopolies remain intact and as impenetrable as ever, partly because of the enormous costs of developing new infrastructure and partly because the Act has created an economic and legal nightmare. It never spells out who should pay for providing universal service and set no guidelines on how the various players should split the access and interconnection charges. It may take years before the Federal Communications Commission, the state regulatory agencies and the courts make some sense of these issues.

The upshot is that MCI's planned attack on the local markets, its biggest potential

area of growth, will proceed at a snail's pace until the mess left by the Act is cleared up. MCI may turn out to be the right acquisition for BT, but when?

Breaking up is hard to do

□ SO what is happening at Discordiant, as it is now known among the ponytail set? True North, the US advertising agency whose name has more direction than its strategy, apparently wants to buy Bates, the other network Cordiant owns apart from Saatchi & Saatchi. But it has yet to table an offer. Cordiant says Bates is not for sale unless the offer from True North is too good to refuse.

Meanwhile the other suggestion is that Saatchi will do a management buyout. Well a successful MBO needs M and the succession issue is a bit of a hot potato at Saatchi & Saatchi. The nominal head of the network, Ed Wax, is close to retirement and

Jennifer Laing, the Ferrari driving star who was brought back to save the London agency, is mired in sorting out the US arm. And then there is the perennial suggestion that Zenith, the media buyer, could be floated.

We are told the Cordiant board is meeting today to discuss a strategy to push the shares to 200p. Well thank heavens for that. One can only wonder what Charles Scott, the chairman, and Bob Seelert, the chief executive, are doing to justify a combined pay package of over £800,000? A package by the way which is more than twice the size of Lord Saatchi's so-called corporate excesses, which were considered so generous that he had to be forced out of the company.

The good old days?

□ AS WE said last week, a new name will be needed for the Ken and Eddie show, the monthly meetings between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England, should Ken be forced to vacate No 11. As the Gordon and Edward show was deemed unsuitable, a reader suggests we use their surnames, so unsettling anyone who remembers the 1960s, with the George Brown show.

Rising value of sterling takes its toll at ABF

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ASSOCIATED British Foods revealed that the rising value of sterling hit profits by £11 million in the first half and is likely to take £30 million off full-year profits.

City followers were disappointed by the results, which came in below most forecasts, and by the lack of news on acquisitions. The shares closed down 13p at 508½p.

An announcement on acquisitions was expected in the wake of the sale last month of ABF's Irish food retailing business to Tesco for £630 million, giving ABF cash of about £1.5 billion.

Garry Weston, chairman, said yesterday that ABF could stretch to making acquisitions of up to £3 billion, but he was in no rush. He added: "It is a big responsibility holding this cash, but prices are pretty high, the timing is important."

In the 24 weeks to March 1, ABF's pre-tax profit was 2 per cent higher at £201 million. Operating profit was steady at £181 million.

The £11 million currency hit resulted from lower selling prices and margins after the re-alignment of the green pound, translation differences on ABF's overseas results, competition from lower priced imports and loss of sales and margins on export opportunities.

In the first half British Sugar's operating profits were £3 million lower at £84 million on turnover 4 per cent down in volume terms at £389 million. Changes to the green pound cost £6 million.

Twinings tea and Burton's biscuits performed well, but Allied Bakeries experienced extremely difficult trading, with some loss of sales volume in the period. Investment in-



Weston: "timing important"

come was £22 million, down from £28 million a year ago. That was blamed partly on a particularly poor return achieved by an individual food manager retained by ABF.

Mr Weston, who turns 70 later this month, said that ideally he would like ABF to

make a large purchase this year, but he dismissed the notion of bidding for Tate & Lyle: "It is a high-priced business for a single product."

He said he was not yet sure whether ABF would bid for any of Unilever's speciality chemical businesses that have been put up for sale.

Possibilities exist to make large acquisitions from de-merging food and agribusiness groups in the US, he said. But for the moment, talks are under way to make only minor acquisitions, for about £20 million, of two specialised US fast food businesses. Returning cash to shareholders would be considered only if no attractively priced acquisitions could be found, he said.

Earnings per share were 14.5p (14.3p). An unchanged interim dividend of 4.25p will be paid on September 1.

Tempos, page 30

Proudfoot suffers £33m loss

PROUDFOOT, the troubled management consultancy, incurred a £33.2 million loss before tax in 1996, compared with a £1.9 million loss in 1995 (Adam Jones writes).

The deficit followed the sale of Crosby, its training and education subsidiary, to Philip Crosby, the founder, for a nominal sum. The sale involved the reinstatement of goodwill previously written off after the purchase in 1989, crystallising a book loss of £37.8 million.

Operating profit rose to £5.3 million, after a £2.7 million loss in 1995. Turnover was down 28 per cent to £56.6 million.

One third of the decline in consulting revenues resulted from the closure of local operations in Spain, South-East Asia and Mexico. Dividend payments remain suspended until financial performance stabilises.

GUS strengthens data business with \$299m deal

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

GREAT Universal Stores, Britain's largest agency mail order group, reinforced its US data business yesterday with the acquisition of Direct Marketing Technology for up to \$299 million.

The group said Direct Tech will complement Experian, the credit information business for which it paid £1.04 billion last year. It is paying \$222.5 million for the equity in Direct Tech, and repaying debts of \$23.7 million. Depending on the improvement in its trading performance between now and 2001, further cash payments of up to \$52.5 million may be made.

Illinois-based Direct Tech employs 570 people and is the market leader in direct marketing services to the US catalogue industry, with clients in the high technology and retail sectors. In the year

to November 30, revenues were \$65 million and operating profits were \$15 million. Net assets are \$8 million.

Eric Barnes, deputy chairman of GUS, said that the acquisition of Direct Tech should be immediately earnings enhancing. Shares in GUS rose 7p to 633½p in response to the deal.

Mr Barnes said GUS is unlikely to make further purchases in the area of information. "We've achieved what we set out to do," he said.

The group, which reported its first profits fall in 48 years in December because of a decline in its British mail order operations, is now looking carefully at that division. He said that if any direct mail order acquisition came along GUS would look at it.

Tempos, page 30

De La Rue sheds jobs in revamp

ABOUT 400 jobs are to be lost in a major reorganisation of De La Rue's security print manufacturing operations in Britain (Martin Barrow writes).

The restructuring, intended to cut costs by up to £7 million a year, will affect production of banknotes, travellers' cheques, personal cheques and certificates and will result in closure of a factory at Dunstable, Bedfordshire. Manufacture of travellers' cheques will be transferred from the Gateshead factory to Thomas De La Rue Inc in Washington, and Harrison & Sons, at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Banknote production will be switched from High Wycombe to Gateshead and other sites worldwide. The changes will cost about £15 million in the results for the year to March 31. De La Rue shares rose 25p, to 534p.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Rules of the Co-op game

GRAHAM MELMOTH, chief executive of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, is clearly feeling the pressure of Lancia Trust's attempt to break up the mutual society. "I feel like we're playing rugby league, on a rugby union playing field, with rugby union rules," he steamed yesterday. This sporting confusion may go a long way to explaining why the CWS annual meeting is being held at the same time as the FA Cup final. In the midst of this crisis in the Co-operative movement, meanwhile, Harry Morron, the chief executive of the Co-operative Retail Society — sister organisation of the CWS — has been called away for three weeks' jury service.

Trying time

THE merger of Bardon and Camas must be built on solid foundations. The gravel pits deal even survived the sound thrashing on the rugby field that Bath handed out to Leicester at the weekend. Bardon's Peter Tom, who moonlights as Leicester's chairman, must have grimaced as he shook hands with a jubilant Maurice Warren of Camas — a long-time Bath supporter and soon to be his new boss.



Peter Tom, of Bardon, saw his team defeated

Alarm bells

ALARM bells rang out at yesterday's annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development — on two occasions. Held at London's Guildhall, it was the role of Rusiri Quina, the Irish Finance Minister, to shepherd delegates out of the Grade I listed building and into an orderly queue. The first was a practice alarm, set for the same time every Monday morning. The second was more serious: an over-excited builder wielded his blow torch a little too close to the smoke alarm.

Small print

BARCLAYS BANK is being taken to task by the Advertising Standards Authority. Objections have been upheld over a recent booklet that claimed on the front "give you up to £150", and, inside, "Switch to a Barclaycard and we'll give you up to £150". Anyone who dipped inside the publication, will have read in very small print, the less exciting news: "We reserve the right to require repayment of the refund in full if in the next 12 months the sum of the annual account fee plus the interest charges paid on your account are less than the amount of the refund."

Party player

NIGELS HAWKINS, traditionally a utilities analyst at Yamaichi Securities, appears to be cutting a tactful path in the run up to the election. Having extended his brief to cover quoted football companies, Hawkins includes a helpful blog in his latest bulletin on the burgeoning sector. For four years before joining the City in 1988, he was Lady Thatcher's political correspondence secretary. During this period, he stood as Conservative Party candidate at Sedgfield, where he was defeated by one Tony Blair.

MORAG PRESTON

Industrial charm offensive to sell wares of UK plc

Oliver August at the Hanover Trade Fair, co-sponsored by the UK for the first time



The Duke of Edinburgh with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, at the Hanover Trade Fair yesterday

Ordinary Germans in the sleepy town of Hanover face the full force of British armour. The RAF's mightiest craft gleam in the harsh spring sun, pregnant with weaponry, while young and old are gushing over UK armoured vehicles and gun barrels.

But this is no military onslaught. The weapons are part of an industrial charm offensive on Germany, Britain's biggest export market. Three hundred of the top UK companies have come to the world's most important trade fair in Hanover this week to boost flagging export sales.

British Aerospace brought the Eurofighter and GEC is displaying its expertise in everything from naval engineering to fighting fires. Also in attendance are Rolls-Royce, BP, SmithKline Beecham and GKN. Shell even tries to turn the Brent Spar nightmare into a public relations asset by showcasing the recycling options for the oil platform.

For the first time, Britain is co-sponsoring the fair. The Department of Trade and Industry is leading the companies into the export battle under the banner "Partnership in Innovation". The DTI said: "Our presence is an unparalleled opportunity to show the UK's economic achievements. It is the largest and best showcase for our products and services in Germany, our biggest trading partner for many years."

Ironically, it was Britain that ordered the staging of the first Hanover trade fair in 1947, setting in motion the country's re-emergence as the world's second largest economic power today. It was held in one of the few factory halls that survived the wartime bombings. British lorries ferried around the 700,000 visitors, who could also view Montgomery's victory hill at Lüneburger Heide. On the 50th anniversary of the fair, Britain can be proud of its postwar generosity. But it has no similar fair of its own, nor export sales to match those of Germany. However, the DTI has now figured out a strategy to catch up. Germany built its success on its technology and its ability to find local partners overseas. The DTI would not advocate anything as crude as copying this winning formula.

But it comes close. To emphasise that British companies can be equally good partners, engineering concerns with their many international joint ventures are in the limelight in Hanover. BAE derives most of its earnings from multinational defence projects, including a number involving Dasa, its German counterpart. Rolls-Royce and GEC also have major German partners. BMW and Siemens respectively and are working hard this week to remind the German public of this.

The DTI is also promoting UK technology. It says: "Britain has more Nobel prize winners than any other country except the United States. In engineering, Britain is a world leader in offshore technology: the Channel Tunnel is one of the largest engineering projects in history. And Formula One cars on the world's race tracks are invariably British technology."

Hence, the emphasis on "innovation". UK exhibitors were told by the DTI that they should strive to change the image of Britain as old-fashioned. "We are a nation at the leading edge of technology," they were told.

But national stereotypes die hard, especially when the Ger-

man organisers insist on having colourfully uniformed British regimental bands. And Lord Lichfield, who donated £20,000 worth of gin, is exhibiting a collection of photographs — dominated by the Royal Family and the English countryside.

Perhaps the DTI should reinterpret British heritage as the secret weapon of British industry. Two separate exhibits in Hanover show how the idea of enterprise in Britain and the country's cultural wealth can form a pioneer movement. On the one hand, German visitors are drawn towards the fair by an exhibition of the crown jewels. On the other, visitors are confronted with a table put out by the Investment in Britain Bureau that shows their country is top of the labour cost league while Britain is at the bottom, with hourly work costing more than twice as much in Germany as in Britain.

The main focus of the British effort in Hanover is a round pavilion, erected by the DTI for £1 million. It functions like a traditional market tent in which the wares of UK plc are displayed. The pavilion's designers call it "The Drum". Not only does it look like one but, metaphorically, its por-

pose is to "beat our drum". There are plans to use it as a travelling platform for UK exporters. The designers would like The Queen to use it when she visits India this summer. But so far the DTI is saying it would be more cost effective to build a new one in India.

The historic tensions between Britons and Germans were still noticeable even 50 years after the first trade fair and the end of the Second World War. Inside The Drum, the Economist magazine had a small stand. Cheekily, it displayed an unflattering caricature of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, captioned "Is Kohl in control?"

The Chancellor had fired a warning shot before the start of the fair. He told Bae that he would not be photographed in front of the Eurofighter. The aircraft is being built by a consortium involving Bae and Dasa. But while the British Government has confirmed it will buy the fighter, Herr Kohl has not. When he toured The Drum yesterday, Alan Garwood of Bae tried in vain to motion him towards a mock-up. The Duke of Edinburgh tried as well, even pronouncing Eurofighter in

German. But to no avail. Herr Kohl steamed ahead, leaving the Duke pinned against a wall. When he caught up he said: "Das ist Vickers". But the Chancellor continued on his high-speed zigzag course. A team from ICL later grabbed Herr Kohl's attention by walking backwards in front of him while explaining their display. The Chancellor finally came to a stop when he spotted a few photographs of scantily clad British models in the Lichfield collection. He pointed at them and then turned to Anthony Nelson, the UK Trade Minister. Roaring with guffawing laughter, Herr Kohl said: "Die obere Reihe." (The upper row). Mr Nelson smiled politely.

The previous evening the Chancellor and the Duke had hosted a dinner for a dozen top British executives. Much to the amazement of the UK contingent, they were seated at a few tables cordoned off by picket fences in the middle of a reception for 1,500 exhibitors who gawked at them all evening.

The occasion could not have been more different from the last time when Germans and Britons got together to create the world's biggest trade fair. The Great Exhibition of 1851 was opened with imperial pomp in London.

The erection of the Crystal Palace had been the idea of Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, the German husband of Queen Victoria. He was pursuing his own charm offensive to win the trust of his wife's subjects. Luckily for him, his opening greetings to the guests were more tactful than the Duke's words yesterday. He called Herr Kohl "Reichskanzler", the official title of German leaders before 1945, rather than "Bundeskanzler".

made a small profit of \$6.1 million on \$75 million of operating income, committed a further \$2.7 billion of loans, expanded its balance sheet to \$13 billion and persuaded its once-shy shareholders to double its capital base.

Its greater achievement is in weaning early customers. The Czech Republic's credit rating is now good enough to manage without the helping hand inspired by François Mitterrand. Poland, Hungary, even Slovenia and some Baltic states could do so too.

Commercial bankers, instead of being grateful, now complain that the European Bank is queering their pitch. That is their way. It makes no sense. As the EBRD's models in Asia and America have learnt, maintaining good business on commercial terms with successful client states gives the base needed to back riskier countries.

The bank is now focusing on its main intended task: helping the transition of Russia and other CIS countries. They and the bank have learnt from the more fertile economic soil of central Europe. Countries such as Bulgaria are catching up fast, privatising banks in dozens. The EBRD's *drum nach Osten* is embracing Belarus, Russia and the Turkic nations of the former Soviet Union. As the EBRD moves on, so will its task. It will surely repeat the postwar history of the original International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The World Bank found that the one-off job of reconstructing damaged but mature economies is only a prelude to the long-term challenge of development. Luckily, the World Bank is not in London.

Why windfall tax is sound

If only Tony Blair and Gordon Brown had not abandoned Labour's sceptical approach to privatisation at the first whiff of grape-shot, they would have been able to capitalise politically on one of the few areas of genuine economic difference between the main parties — and one where Labour's policies are both hugely popular and economically sound. I refer, of course, to the idea of levying a huge windfall tax on privatised utility companies and using the proceeds to guarantee jobs and training programmes to the unemployed.

Professor Richard Layard discusses these education and labour market policies on page 18 of today's Times. I want to focus instead on the narrow economic issue of how the money will be raised. If a large government employment and education programme of some kind is desirable, is the windfall tax a good way of paying the bill?

This seems to be one of those rare economic questions that allows a clear answer: the windfall tax is unequivocally a good idea.

Economic theory has always taught that the best kind of tax from the standpoint of economic efficiency is a one-off lump-sum tax which relates to past activities, rather than profits or incomes earned in the future. Such levies do not affect incentives to work, save or make profits in the future. They thus avoid the main distortions and inefficiencies associated with normal taxes on incomes, profits, consumption, inheritance and so on. But while lump-sum taxes are in theory the best way of raising money for government, they are difficult to devise without introducing unfairness and unpredictability. The main economic objection to a windfall tax is the fear that it may engender among investors of a repeat performance — but more of that at the end.

What makes Labour's windfall proposal unusually attractive is that, for once, these standard objections to lump-sum taxes have been overcome. The windfall tax is not unfair because general taxpayers have suffered serious losses from the underpricing of state assets and the excessive debt write-offs when the utilities were privatised. The people who will now pay the windfall tax are, on the whole, the ones who benefited most from this sleight of hand. Contrary to popular opinion, this tax will not be paid by innocent investors who were galloped into buying utility shares just before the election campaign began. This is because today's level

of utility shares already incorporates the assumption that these companies will pay a hefty levy — of between £5 billion and £10 billion, according to most City estimates. If all that happens in the Budget is that Mr Brown announces a tax in line with these expectations, utility shares will not move and none of their present shareholders will suffer. Neither will the original investors in the privatisation issues have any cause to complain. People who bought shares in the privatisations or soon afterwards will not suffer because electricity and water shares are worth 40 per cent more today, in relation to the FT-SE All-share index, than they were at the time of privatisation.

Who, then, will pay the tax? The real victims will be the speculators who bought utility shares during the period of takeover and dividend fever which largely inspired the windfall tax. Since then, utility shares have fallen by roughly 20 per cent relative to the All-share index and this is a rough measure of the expected future profits that shareholders have already forgone.

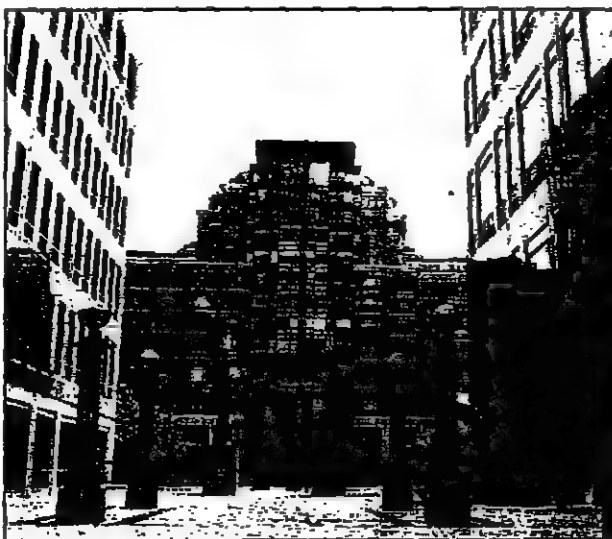
Imagine now that the windfall tax were for some reason abandoned or watered down. The utility shares would immediately jump by 20 per cent or more. As the Institute for Fiscal Studies pointed out last week, anyone who had bought the shares since 1995, knowing full well that a Labour tax was likely to be levied, would suddenly enjoy their own windfall.

There is just one caveat that Labour leaders should bear in mind: to be efficient, the windfall tax must be at least as big as the stock market expects. The worst mistake a Labour government could make, not only from a political but also from an economic standpoint, would be to implement a modest, half-hearted levy of only £3 billion or so. This would be far less money than the stock market expected. It would fail to provide the revenues that the Labour programmes needed. And, worst of all, a half-hearted levy would inevitably raise the threat of the Chancellor coming back for more, since it would send utility shares soaring skywards the day after his first Budget.

A Labour government should reassure the City that there will be no second instalment. The surest way to do that would be to raise enough money to fund its programmes — and more than the stock market is expecting — from the very beginning.

Successes outshine failings of the glistening bank

Graham Searjeant says the European Bank is moving on



EBRD conducts the real business out of the spotlight

people of Eastern Europe. Some bankers, notably those who missed a highlight presentation on Russia, failed to appreciate the joke. More were unable to squeeze into meetings in cramped rooms, let alone hear a translation. Ukraine ran its show again for a second house.

All this, the harassed organiser explained, shows how popular Russia and less fashionable East European economies have become — a feeble excuse but true. A few years ago, Ukraine and Bulgaria might have played humiliatedly to empty seats. Now they are courted.

That change shows how the much-mocked EBRD has succeeded over the past four years by conducting its real business

quietly and professionally away from the spotlight. Forget diplomatic wrangles. M de Larosière's stint running the International Monetary Fund gave him the authority to link loan investment with economic reform.

Mr Freeman brought commercial discipline to private sector loans — and thereby limited losses. From work done in the early Attali days, the EBRD has also focused on helping to build local banking and investment structures, the only practical way to help smaller, local businesses.

Under this tighter regime, EBRD has committed \$10 billion in loans and brought \$20 billion investment in their train via co-financing deals. In 1996, the six-year-old bank

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JP 11/15/97

Shares end well off their lows

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997 High Low Company Price % Chg % PE

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
480	485	480	480	1.0
485	490	485	485	1.0
490	495	490	490	1.0
495	500	495	495	1.0
500	505	500	500	1.0
505	510	505	505	1.0
510	515	510	510	1.0
515	520	515	515	1.0
520	525	520	520	1.0
525	530	525	525	1.0
530	535	530	530	1.0
535	540	535	535	1.0
540	545	540	540	1.0
545	550	545	545	1.0
550	555	550	550	1.0
555	560	555	555	1.0
560	565	560	560	1.0
565	570	565	565	1.0
570	575	570	570	1.0
575	580	575	575	1.0
580	585	580	580	1.0
585	590	585	585	1.0
590	595	590	590	1.0
595	600	595	595	1.0
600	605	600	600	1.0
605	610	605	605	1.0
610	615	610	610	1.0
615	620	615	615	1.0
620	625	620	620	1.0
625	630	625	625	1.0
630	635	630	630	1.0
635	640	635	635	1.0
640	645	640	640	1.0
645	650	645	645	1.0
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660	665	660	660	1.0
665	670	665	665	1.0
670	675	670	670	1.0
675	680	675	675	1.0
680	685	680	680	1.0
685	690	685	685	1.0
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695	700	695	695	1.0
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740	745	740	740	1.0
745	750	745	745	1.0
750	755	750	750	1.0
755	760	755	755	1.0
760	765	760	760	1.0
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770	775	770	770	1.0
775	780	775	775	1.0
780	785	780	780	1.0
785	790	785	785	1.0
790	795	790	790	1.0
795	800	795	795	1.0
800	805	800	800	1.0
805	810	805	805	1.0
810	815	810	810	1.0
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820	825	820	820	1.0
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830	835	830	830	1.0
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1997 High Low Company Price % Chg % PE

BANKS				
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855	860	855	855	1.0
860	865	860	860	1.0
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870	875	870	870	1.0
875	880	875	875	1.0
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POP 1

Man behind the girl from Ipanema: time to discover the real Antonio Carlos Jobim.

POP 2

At the Union Chapel, Beth Orton shows her prowess in both folk and dance genres

THE TIMES ARTS

POP 3

Intense and unpredictable, Wilco add lustre to a growing reputation in a London gig

MUSIC

Elgar Howarth directs an avant-garde programme of Swedish and British sounds

Salute the boss of bossa nova

As the Barbican prepares a tribute concert, Clive Davis looks back on the legacy of Brazil's Antonio Carlos Jobim

An old television commercial for saffron spreads for toast cheekily adapted the words of Cole Porter's "You're the Top." And when toast is on the bottom, you're the top. The ditty rang out month after month, presumably sending sales of cauliflower cheese into the stratosphere. Most of us, thankfully, know there is more to Cole Porter than a TV jingle. The great Brazilian songwriter Antonio Carlos Jobim has not been so fortunate. While most of us are familiar with his most famous tune, *The Girl From Ipanema*, we normally hear it only when passing through a hotel lounge or marooned in a tacky night club. Ground into drab muzak by a thousand violins and third-rate cabaret singers, the bossa nova standard has made another comeback recently as an anthem of the self-consciously schmaltzy lounge music scene. No doubt we should be grateful for small mercies.

Yet to reduce his legacy to that one undeniably memorable hit does a disservice to the memory of a remarkable weaver of melody. Jobim — who died of heart failure in 1994, aged 67 — belongs to the noble tradition of popular songwriting inaugurated by the Gershwins and Jerome Kern.

Musicians have always been aware of his merits. Countless jazz improvisers, led by the saxophonist Stan Getz, have been attracted to the supple harmonies of his compositions. Frank Sinatra admired him enough to entice him into the studio for a haunting, after-hours album. Sting sang the ballad *Insensatez* (*How Insensitive*) on Jobim's final recording, the vibrant, Grammy-winning *Antonio Brasileiro*. Not to be left out, George Michael dedicated his "comeback" disc *Older* to "the man who changed the way I listened to music".

Jobim's enduring contribution will be celebrated at the Barbican on Thursday in a concert by a band made up of his close collaborators including the cellist Jacques Morelenbaum, whose graceful playing illuminated last year's enthralling Festival Hall concert by Caetano Veloso, one of many Brazilian singer-songwriters to build on Jobim's innovations.

Artists have been competing to deliver recorded tributes. The latest, *A Twist of Jobim*, an all-star effort produced and arranged by guitarist Lee Ritenour, creates a slick jazz-fusion ambience on numbers such as *Agua de Beber*, *Dindi* and *Stone Flower* (a propulsive instrumental that went into Carlos Santana's repertoire a good quarter of a century ago).

Oleta Adams, Al Jarreau and Herbie Hancock join the celebrity guest-list on a spirited venture that nevertheless tends to obscure the rhythmic subtleties of the originals. There is more to be savoured on the intimate set by the American acoustic guitarist Gene Bertoncini on his new disc, *Jobim — Someone To Light Up My Life*.

Bertoncini opens his recital with a playful reference to the harmonic similarities between *Insensatez* and Chopin's E minor prelude. Jobim himself apparently enjoyed giving jocular grandiose demonstrations of the connection to friends. He usually achieved his effects through much subtler means: a cultivated musician, he particularly adored the blending of folk and classical sensibilities in the work of his compatriot, Villa-Lobos.

The measured tones of so-called West Coast jazz were another prime influence. It was no coincidence, perhaps, that when the bossa nova craze swept America, it should have



Jobim's close collaborator, the cellist Jacques Morelenbaum, leads this week's Barbican tribute with the Jobim/Morelenbaum Quartet

been championed by Stan Getz, a saxophonist with links to the West Coast school, and who represented the melodic virtues that Jobim most admired.

Jobim's first international success came in 1959 with the score to the film *Black Orpheus*. The craze for bossa nova (roughly translated as "new wave") took off three years later when Getz and the guitarist Charlie Byrd recorded *Desafinado* on their bestselling LP, *Jazz Samba*. The following year Getz teamed up with Jobim and his partner, the

singer-guitarist Joao Gilberto. The resulting disc, *Getz-Gilberto*, one of the most magical of pop-jazz recordings, produced the definitive version of *The Girl From Ipanema*, with an impromptu performance of the English vocals by Gilberto's wife, Astrud (who thereafter became a star in her own right).

"His evolution as a composer was amazing," explains the author Gene Lees, founder-publisher of the respected international monthly *Jazzletter*, and English lyricist on such Jobim standards as *Corcovado*

(*Quiet Nights*). "He started by writing gentle, simple songs, and proceeded into deeper and deeper sophistication. As he grew older, he seemed to draw more and more on Brazil's various musical traditions, not just so-called bossa nova."

"He did something for his country that has been too little recognised," Lees continues. "Brazilian music was known to the world largely through the travesty the Hollywood movies made of Carmen Miranda — actually a gifted singer. Jobim gave Brazil and its music dignity

and stature, and he did it almost single-handedly."

Heavy drinking sapped Jobim's output in later years; the little matinee idol declined into corpulent middle age. Still, *Antonio Brasileiro* — released shortly before his unexpected death — proved an enduring final testament.

● A Celebration of Antonio Carlos Jobim, Barbican Centre (021-638 8891), Thursday, 7.30pm. A Twist of Jobim is released this week on its music/Verve, Jobim — Someone To Light Up My Life is on the Chiaroscuro label

Tricks with a trombone

A TRIVIAL but intriguing concern during the first half of the concert in the Adrian Boult Hall was why — when everyone else, including fellow soloist Hakan Hardenberger, was wearing informal clothes of one kind or another — Christian Lindberg was in evening dress. The answer, it emerged in the first performance of Jan Sandström's *Cantos de la Mancha*, was so that he could take it off. By the end of the piece he was costumed in a smock, a wide leather belt, theatrical tights, a head bandage and no shoes, the whole transformation having been effected before our very eyes.

BCMG/Howarth Birmingham

The other thing about Lindberg is that he plays the trombone. And playing it does not stop short at making music with it. In *Cantos de la Mancha*, a piece inspired by Cervantes, he was waving it about like a windmill, tapping on the platform with it, stabbing himself in the chest with it. When he wasn't doing that, or delivering a spoken commentary, he was adding the sound of the trombone to that of a large chamber ensemble in music that is highly colourful, rewarding melodiously and generally entertaining.

As we knew already from Sandström's notorious *Motorbike Concerto*, also written for Lindberg in costume, contemporary Swedish music is not solemn. Folke Rabe's *Tinamarra* is subtle rather than sensational but it too, a witty dialogue for trumpet and trombone, has its dramatic exchanges — which Hakan Hardenberger and Christian Lindberg were not reluctant to exploit on this occasion. Even Karin Rehnqvist's slow-moving and not wildly eventful *Taromirs Tid* (for flute, clarinet and strings) has a visual dimension, in the way the instrumentalists are grouped on the platform, to match the interplay of darker and lighter sounds.

The other two works performed by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, in this most interesting event in the Sounds of Sweden festival, were both by Harrison Birtwistle. His very early *Refrains and Choruses*, impressive though it certainly was in 1959, seems now to lack the characteristic Birtwistle inevitability. His *Endless Parade*, on the other hand, wonderfully well performed by Hardenberger in the solo trumpet part and authoritatively conducted by Elgar Howarth, remains his most exciting orchestral score.

CHRIS PARKER GERALD LARNER

Liquorice allsorts

ALTHOUGH he is most celebrated for his saxophone playing, Kenny Davern now concentrates on clarinet, an instrument with something of a chequered history in jazz. Notwithstanding the success of Benny Goodman, and give or take the odd maverick such as bop's Tony Scott and the contemporary virtuoso Don Byron, the instrument has been seen most frequently in the hands either of Dixieland musicians or of reed-section players in big bands.

Davern's broad-ranging approach is thus valuable, not only for its intrinsic virtuosity, but also for its nurturing of many and varied aspects of a slightly beleaguered tradition. There has always been, in

JAZZ
Kenny Davern
Pizza Express, W1

this tradition, a perceived divide between the smooth, tutored elegance of Goodman and Artie Shaw, and the rougher, more demotic playing of, say, Pee Wee Russell. Davern began his first set more in the former style, applying his warm, caressing tone to Don Redman's *Cherry* and following it with a deceptively gentle version of *It Had to Be You*.

However, as soon as he led his rhythm section — pianist

Colin Purbrook, bassist Alec Dankworth and drummer Clive Thacker — into Gershwin's *Lady Be Good*, Davern demonstrated the somewhat arbitrary nature of such compartmentalisation. Features supposedly associated with the latter school — growls and slurs, startlingly wide intervallic leaps — crept into his playing, and by the time he had eased his way through *I Want a Little Girl* and James P. Johnson's *A Porter's Love Song to a Chamber Maid*, it was clear that Davern, while employing a swing-based style, has by no means shut his ears to subsequent jazz developments.

CHRIS PARKER

POP: Beth Orton makes folk music hip; Wilco do the same with country

Finger in the ear to the ground

AN ACOUSTICALLY inclined singer-songwriter does not attract a following of hip young things without possessing a secret weapon. Beth Orton's is that she holds dual passports: fluent in folk songcraft, she keeps one foot tapping in time to the contemporary dance market.

Norwich-born and 26 years old, Orton has dallied in clubland long enough to be accepted into techno culture, working with mixers such as Andrew Weatherall and William Orbit. She also contributed vocals to the new

Chemical Brothers album, *Dig Your Own Hole*.

So to Union Chapel, a chilly North London church where admirers of Orton's album *Trailer Park* formed a supportive congregation. A performance last December on BBC2's *Later* series had been undermined by her obvious nervousness, but the intensive road work of recent months seems to have fuelled her confidence no end.

So much so that she began with the album's best-known song, *She Cries Your Name*, an engaging and eerie mid-tempo piece lifted by cello

Beth Orton
Union Chapel, N1

and violin. We may expect the song, first released last year, to up the ante considerably for Orton when it is reissued early next month. Also from the album, *Touch Me With Your Love* was dark and powerful and *Galaxy of Emptiness* typically wistful, but an impression gained during that *Later* performance would not go away: that amid her distinctive songwriting, likeable stage

persona and spirited leadership of the band, Orton's weak link is her vocal technique. Her singing was thin and wayward rather too often to allow this performance to soar.

But it was refreshing to see a young writer tipping her hat to some great forebears with a cover of Phil Spector and Ellie Greenwich's *I Wish I Never Saw The Sunshine*. If she works on those pipes, her mixture of folk, pop and dance can only continue its upward mobility.

PAUL SEXTON

Warp and wild west

Wilco/Kim Richey
Shepherds Bush Empire

noise. Hunched over a microphone stand, the tall, bow-legged figure of singer and songwriter Jeff Tweedy was the dominant presence on the murky lit stage, his voice starting out as a husky drawl and ending in a blood-curdling shriek. But from there things quickly lightened up, as they played a string of numbers in an acoustic,

country vein, including the relaxed, honky-tonk stomp of *Forget The Flowers* and an aching version of *The Lonely I*. Indeed, you could almost have forgotten that this five-piece group had anything much to do with rock'n'roll until Tweedy eventually strapped on his electric guitar and they eased into the choppy, Keith Richards-style riffing of *I Got You (At the End of the Century)*. After that there was no stopping them as they piled into *I Must Be High*, *Hotel Arizona* and *Monday*, all played with a combination of fierce musical skill and reckless abandon, and fired by the entertaining guitar heroics of Jay Bennett. As far as country-rock with attitude goes, it is hard to think of anyone else who currently comes close.

DAVID SINCLAIR

IN TOMORROW'S TIMES

INTERFACE

The impact of the latest technology on banks and building societies.

ARTS

The Miracles Project. London's badland rappers take on the Albert Hall.

CRICKET

The first delivery of the new season. Oxford University play Derbyshire whilst Cambridge University meet Durham.

FOOTBALL

Middlesbrough's replays continue. A preview of the Coca-Cola Cup final replay between Leicester and Middlesbrough.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

CHANGING TIMES



■ VISUAL ART 1

The *Padshahnama* manuscript, now on show at Buckingham Palace, is one of Islam's marvels



■ VISUAL ART 2

A virtuoso lesson in how to paint a flower, from the easel of Ger Van Dyck

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

The British Chagall? Dora Holzhandler's work reveals a brilliant technical command



■ CD CHOICE

Piping hot: *Building a Library* surveys the top recordings of Louis Vierne's organ music

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork seizes a rare opportunity to marvel at some royal treasures. Plus other London shows

Small world of a Mogul monarch

As if its extensive holdings in Western art were not treasure enough, the Royal Collection also boasts a resplendent group of around 40 Islamic manuscripts. Ranging in date from 1492 to the 19th century, many were given to British monarchs as diplomatic tributes from their ever-widening Empire.

In terms of the miniatures and calligraphy they contain, some of these Indian and Persian documents are outstanding. But the most handsome and delectable item is surely the *Padshahnama*, or *Chronicle of the King of the World*.

The magnificent quality of its 44 painted illustrations, recording episodes from the reign of the great Mogul Emperor Shah-Jahan, make this exceptional manuscript one of the finest works in the Royal Collection. Until recently, though, they have remained bound within one volume and never displayed. Only now, as a result of conservation work, are all the painted pages on public view at the Queen's Gallery. And when the exhibition closes, they will be rebound and sent back to the Royal Library at Windsor.

The present show is therefore a unique occasion, and unlikely to be forgotten by anyone who visits it. Given in 1799 to the Governor-General of India as a present from the Nawab of Oudh to George III, the *Padshahnama* celebrates the lustre and military prowess of the Emperor who built the Taj Mahal. It is unashamedly dynastic propaganda, and the opening two pages establish a revelatory mood. They depict a double *shamsa*, a marvelously intricate representation of the divine light transferred to kings. Its bursting radiance spreads outwards from an intensely luminous centre, reflecting the belief that Shah-Jahan's birth had been marked by "a flash from the world-permeating Sun".

Charles I, who was on the British throne when Shah-Jahan became Emperor in 1627, would have applauded the divinity idea. After all, a similar belief led to his own downfall at the hands of Cromwell. And Charles himself received a gift from Shah-Jahan in 1638, marking the kinship between two powerful rulers whose appetite for art and architecture became legendary.

What, however, would the extravagant patron of Rubens and Van Dyck have made of the illustrations in the *Padshahnama*? Charles doted on the European Renaissance, and the paintings he bought or commissioned made full expressive use of its pictorial innovations. The artists who worked for Shah-Jahan, by contrast, adhered to a very different set of conventions. Largely ignoring perspective as much as the play of shadows, they produced flat and unabashedly ornamental designs. Van Dyck's love of bravura brushwork played no part in their careful linear pattern-making. Detail of the most microscopic kind

abounds in the *Padshahnama*'s well-preserved pages, testifying to the uncanny clarity and strength of its artists' eyesight.

But the wonder is that these pages never became cluttered with an excess of minutiae. The demands of the overall image are always kept in mind, just as the supremacy of the Shah himself is stressed at every turn. He first appears as a prince, returning victorious from the Mewar campaign to be embraced by his grateful father. The two men occupy a symbolically high position in the composition, backed by exquisite floral wall decorations and arrayed in sumptuous robes.

The retinue below, portrayed for the most part in severe profile, stand as if awed by the meeting above. Their stiffness shows just how hierarchical the Mogul court must have been, its artists clearly expected to conform to a rigid set of visual rules. Within limits, though, the painter responsible for this superbly sophisticated picture was able to indulge in a host of pictorial felicities. Look at the carpet where the retinue stands, its woven surface alive with a looping, abstract embellishment. Still more high-spirited is the treatment of the elephant outside the gold-railed enclosure, laughing as he curls his trunk playfully around a bejewelled tusk. Far from languishing in undervalued anonymity, the artist was permitted to portray himself in the same section of the picture. Turbaned and moustached, he clutches a painting and stares with a directness that even enabled him to delineate the minuscule smallpox scars peppering a courtier's swarthy face.

The artist's name was Balchand, and he belonged to a remarkable family of painters who included his flamboyant brother, Payag. The latter's self-portrait can be found in another elaborate presentation scene, where the future Shah-Jahan receives a jewel from his father. At first glance, the composition follows Balchand's precedent very closely. But prolonged scrutiny discloses a greater liking for decorative splendour. The attendants seem more individual in character, and there are signs in Payag's handling of architecture that he enjoys flouting the customary insistence on flatness.

More conscious than most of European developments, he studied Altdorfer, Callot and Elsheimer when prints of their work were brought to India by missionaries and traders. Only a forceful personality would have dared to become interested in perspective and other heretical Western devices. Sure enough, Payag's self-portrait reveals a supremely self-confident figure. Mogul artists' interest in

innovation must not be exaggerated, however. Although a number of painters were responsible for the *Padshahnama*, the work as a whole is notably unified in impact. Their ability to orchestrate ceremonies of epic complexity is always formidable, and at times quite breathtaking. Time and again I found myself marvelling over consummate clusters of incidental figures, like the musicians playing so boisterously under a scarlet canopy while a military submission is enacted.

Wedding processions can be guaranteed to offer a wealth of delightful details. The dense ranks of servants bearing presents on riotously ornamental, tasselled platters are a miracle of sprightly observation. Their heads are individual enough to be convincing likenesses, and they seem to float above the presents.

By no means all these paintings are peaceful, though. Shah-Jahan was a prodigious warrior, and he must have savoured his artists' flair in the depiction of battles. A shell-burst shaped alarmingly like a nuclear explosion hangs over *The Capture of Port Hoogly*, where the successful Mogul raid on a Portuguese trading colony played a decisive part in the decline of their mercantile influence in India. Expensive European hats bob ridiculously in the water.

No such levity can be found in the gruesome *Death of Khan Jahan Lodi*. His dis-

trust of Shah-Jahan led to rebellion, and he was rewarded with a brusque decapitation on the battlefield. While *Flies swirl and settle* on his allies' severed heads, the rebel leader turns pale green as one executioner grips his ears and another saws through his neck with a dripping blade.

Mogul rulers filled their leisure hours with equally bloody pastimes. The Shah kneels in a hunt to aim his rifle at some unsuspecting antelope. The gentle gravity of the antelope contrasts sickeningly with the Emperor's smile as he squeezes the trigger of the royal gun. But the scene as a whole seems paradoxically lyrical, dominated by an extensive landscape where receding yellow hillsides eventually grow pink as the sun descends in a spectacular sky.

The Shah's halo suggests that, unlike the antelope, he is invincible. In reality, his reign terminated in a terrible dynastic struggle. Bitterly rivalrous, his sons fought each other for the succession. And in 1658 Prince Aurangzeb seized the throne by imprisoning his father in the fort at Agra. The elderly Shah was confined to the harem section until he died eight years later. Viewed in the light of his humiliation, as crushing in its way as Charles I's fate, the cavalcade of triumphs lauded by the *Padshahnama* takes on an unexpected poignancy. For they were the Shah's paradise years, and in the end he must have mourned their sudden, irreversible loss.

King of the World, Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace (0171-799 2331) until April 27

AROUND THE GALLERIES

WHEN an artist has been through both abstract and representational periods, it is usually assumed that the abstract will naturally succeed the representational: when Avigdor Arikha abandoned abstraction he was spat upon in the streets of Paris. Since the Dutch are traditionally more phlegmatic, presumably Ger Van Dyck underwent no such indignity on the streets of Maastricht, even though what he took up after abstract sculpture was painting flowers in watercolour.

But then, you have to see exactly how he paints the flowers. The watercolours are large, the handling of the medium fluent and fluid, with a virtuosity all the more telling because it does not draw attention to itself. The pictures are mostly in close-up, with little definable to be seen beyond the flowers to give a sense of proportion and context. In fact, although the depiction is scrupulously accurate — with the painter's accuracy of impression rather than the botanist's scientific precision — the pictures end up almost as abstract as the principled abstractions that preceded them.

Piano Nobile, 129 Portland Road, London W11 (0171-229 1099) until April 23

ON THE other hand, Therese Oulton has always been much the same sort of artist: abstract, but somehow trembling on the brink of recognisability. Most of the paintings in her latest show, which covers work of the last two years, look as though they could be minutely accurate depictions of bolts of intricately woven cloth, juxtaposed and intertwined. Some of the others look like flowers climbing over a grid of taut strings. Always the rich and ceremonial colours lead the dance.

Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, London W1 (0171-629 5161) until May 2

IF WE have never heard of Thomas Simpson, a turn-of-the-century East Coast Impressionist recently uncovered by Stephen Barley, it is probably because of the bane of a private income and, as far as we know, an uneventful bachelor life. The works recently rediscovered are all watercolours, all painted apparently in the 1890s along the East Anglian and Kent coasts or around Clapham and Wandsworth Commons. One of them seems to have been exhibited at the New English Art Club in 1890, but nothing is certain, not even his exact date of death. At least there is no doubting his seriousness as a painter, or the breezy charm of his work.

Barley Drey Gallery, 62 Old Church Street, London SW3 (0171-352 8686), until Saturday

IT IS easy to praise (or dismiss) Dora Holzhandler as the British Chagall. There is a connection in the ethnic Jewishness of most of her images, full of rabbis and the ceremonial days of the religion. There is also a similar fancifulness: many of her characters, like his, possess for all their gravity a curious weightlessness. But the brilliant colours of her pictorial patchworks are disposed with considerable cunning, and the less-known watercolours have a sureness of effect which comes only from complete technical command.

Rona Gallery, 1-2 Weighhouse Street, London W1 (0171-491 3718), until April 25

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR



Days in the life of the great Shah-Jahan: (from top) the emperor hunting antelope in a lyrical landscape; the delivery of presents from Prince Dara-Shukoh's wedding; and the capture of Port Hoogly from the Portuguese

‘The detail testifies to the artists’ strong eyesight’

The artist's name was Balchand, and he belonged to a remarkable family of painters who included his flamboyant brother, Payag. The latter's self-portrait can be found in another elaborate presentation scene, where the future Shah-Jahan receives a jewel from his father. At first glance, the composition follows Balchand's precedent very closely. But prolonged scrutiny discloses a greater liking for decorative splendour. The attendants seem more individual in character, and there are signs in Payag's handling of architecture that he enjoys flouting the customary insistence on flatness.

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CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available classical music recordings, presented in conjunction with the BBC Radio 3 programme

VIERNE'S ORGAN MUSIC
Reviewed by Jerrold Northrop Moore

Louis Vierne (1870-1937) touched a high point in the French organ symphony. The form's two progenitors, César Franck and Charles-Marie Widor, were Vierne's teachers, and Widor headed the jury of distinguished musicians who in 1900 awarded Vierne the organistship of Notre Dame, Paris, a post he held for the rest of his life.

Vierne was born almost blind, and remained hypersensitive throughout his life. All this found reflection in his

six Organ Symphonies, written between 1898 and 1930. The best recorded cycle of Vierne's symphonies is played by Ben van Oosten on three instruments by the greatest French organ builder, Cavallé-Coll, who also built most of the organs at Notre Dame: it comes on two pairs of discs from Dabrinshaus & Grimm (L3211/12 and L3213/14).

Individual symphony re-

cordings of merit are No 3 by Daniel Roth at another Cavallé-Coll organ (Motette CD 10491) and Nos 4 and 6 by Iain Simcock at the organ of Westminster Cathedral (Priority PRCD 429).

For the 24 *Pièces en style libre* try REM 311244 (2 discs): the pieces are shared between two French Canadians, Jacques Boucher and Denis Regnaud playing another fine

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forbes, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk
● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (4pm): Sibelius's En Saga



Cavallé-Coll. For the 24 *Pièces de Fantaisie* (including Vierne's Monet-like evocation of Big Ben in *Carillon de Westminster*), there is Wolfgang Rihmsam at still another Cavallé-Coll, on Bayer BR10004/15 (2 discs). And don't miss Vierne himself on an EMI *Composer in Person* disc (CDC 5 5037-2 £16.99).

If you possess only one Vierne recording, let it be this one: on the same disc you also get Widor, Marcel Dupré, and Messiaen playing their works.

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Street crime is worrying, says Gary Slapper, but corporate criminality far more so

Danger, suite crime

This week, as electioneering politicians try to supersede each other in the gravity of their remarks about street crime and its prevention, the issue of "suite crime" — corporate offending — may well be left out of account.

Such a big problem, however, is too injurious to the public to be ignored. Just how damaging some white-collar crime can be was highlighted earlier this month when the largest fraud case in English legal history ended at the Old Bailey with the conviction of the shipping tycoon Abbas Gokal. The charges against Mr Gokal, relating to the Bank of Credit and Commerce (BCCI) scandal, involved the sum of £750 million.

Crime has risen on the political agenda because of the widespread misery it is causing to so many people. Yet corporate offending causes much wider and more enduring misery without attracting the attention of those who are usually keen to increase policing, stiffen sentences, and reduce the rights of suspects in order to reduce offending.

Corporate fraud, commercial pollution of the air and water, computer offences and crimes relating to trades descriptions, food hygiene, pensions, health and safety, and securities all widely affect the public. The money stolen, injury inflicted and damage caused here are gigantic compared to the results of other crime. Yet the law, policing, investigation and sentencing in these areas are notably weak compared with others sorts of crime.

A Home Office document last month estimated that juvenile crime probably costs, overall, about £4 billion a year. This was regarded as alarming enough to warrant a call for a panoply of new measures, including child crime teams, high co-ordinated inter-agency work and new court powers such as the Parental Control Order. Yet there is much more to panic about in relation to white-collar offences, which commentators have estimated to cost society between twice and ten times the amount lost in

ordinary crime. Professor Michael Levi, for example, found that the total cost of fraud reported to fraud squads in 1985 was £2.1 billion, about twice the cost of theft, burglary and robbery in the same year. J.E. Conklin, an American criminologist, estimated that in the United States robbery during one year, theft and vehicle theft cost between \$3 billion and \$4 billion, compared with the \$40 billion attributable to white-collar crime.

One big problem with white-collar crime is that it is rarely understood by the public to be as serious as "real" crime, even when the consequences of corporate delinquency are the same as those of personal offending.

Last year 22,400 people suffered from serious life-threatening assaults. But 29,475 people, employees and members of the public, suffered major injuries at work. Such injuries include loss of an eye and those requiring an amputation. Health and Safety Executive reports have shown that many incidents are preventable and attributable to management failures. Similarly, whereas there were, during 1995-96, about 180 cases of reckless manslaughter, 290 employees and members of the public were killed at work. Research has suggested that as many as 20 per cent of such workplace deaths result from gross negligence. Workers are seven times more likely to be killed at work than by homicide. And 10,000 people die annually from work-related chronic conditions such as mesothelioma and pneumoconiosis.

When corporations act dishonestly, the magnitude of the wrong is occasionally obvious. When BCCI was exposed in 1991 as having been involved in fraudulent practices entailing sums of up to £15 billion, there was perhaps little public doubt about the organisation's criminality. Local authorities in Britain lost about £100 million. But with some sorts of chicanery it is often difficult to appreciate the scale of the wrongdoing because each victim loses only a relatively small sum. As the criminologist Steven Box once observed, the public understands more

Tom Cruise in *The Firm*, a story of a man who finds the law firm he joins is corrupt

easily what it means for an old lady to have £5 snatched from her purse than to grasp the financial significance of 25 million customers paying one penny more for orange juice diluted beyond the limit permitted by law.

The Serious Fraud Office, set up in 1987, handles about 60 cases of serious and complex fraud at any one time where the money at risk in each case is £1 million or more. Additionally, the Metropolitan and City Police Company Fraud Department, formed in 1946, is responsible for the investigation of large and complicated frauds involving limited companies and banks, and more recently, offences of public sector corruption. This department is investigating 600 cases at any one time. The total at risk in these cases is invariably several hundred million pounds.

A teenager who drives his car with reckless disregard for

the safety of others may hurt one or two people or six if he careers into a bus queue, but a reckless water company or pharmaceutical corporation can injure hundreds of thousands of people by one episode of criminal negligence. In 1991 South West Water Authority was convicted after the contamination of water at Camelford. Aluminium sulphate in the water caused many people to suffer and was said to be responsible for the death of about 500,000 fish.

Despite the inimical effects of corporate offending, the offenders face a low level of policing and a small likelihood of being prosecuted. Failing resources for the Health and Safety Executive in recent years have resulted in heavy demands on its inspectors. In Britain, factories are inspected for safety offences on average every four years. There may be more than 150,000 building sites in

Greater London, but only 20 inspectors to check site safety.

Conviction rates in the corporate sector seem low. One possibility is that the real level of corporate fraud is infinitesimally low — but it is more likely that the enormous resources needed to detect and successfully prosecute all corporate crime prevent most of it ever coming to light.

Dr Gary Slapper is Principal Lecturer in Law at Staffordshire University.

Mr Howard gets something right

Andrew Mimmack applauds an attempt at faster justice

Not long before the general election was called, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, proposed changes to the procedures governing which cases go to trial by jury. First responses were predictably dominated by strong feelings. But constitutionally significant though the 20th of the 33 proposals is, it would be a great pity if it crowded out discussion of the other 32 — or worse, resulted in their abandonment.

Much has been made of the alleged commitment in Magna Carta to the right of trial before one's peers. It is worth remembering that the same document commits the Crown to the provision of swift justice, saying: "To no man will we delay or deny justice."

It is in the interests of the prosecution — i.e. in the interests of the victim — to have a case dealt with as quickly as possible, while witnesses have a clear recollection of the facts. If the right person has been prosecuted, it is appropriate for him or her to be sentenced soon enough for him and for the public at large to recognise the link between the offence and the punishment. It is also desirable for the victim to have some chance of being compensated fairly quickly. Some degree of delay may be inevitable; for example, while forensic tests are carried out, or witnesses traced. Sadly, most delays are caused by inertia, inefficiency or downright obstructiveness.

The Home Office proposals, by Martin Narey of the department, are a welcome recognition of the need to tackle these delays at the earliest opportunity. From the justices' perspective, the key to reducing delay lies in the implementation of an effective mechanism for controlling the progress of

criminal cases so as to ensure that both prosecution and defence work to a clear, enforceable timetable.

Such a mechanism has existed successfully in the Family Proceedings Courts since the Children Act was implemented nearly six years ago. By giving the justices' clerks and their senior staff the function of setting a timetable for cases involving the welfare of children and insisting on compliance by the parties, it has been possible to provide an effective local forum for difficult and often sensitive cases.

The system's success in the family law context has been recognised by the Government's decision to transfer most of the work relating to domestic violence to the magistrates' courts.

If such a system can work well in the family context, there is no reason it should not prove equally effective in the criminal courts. Mr Narey proposes that instead of bailing defendants for up to six weeks, as happens at present, the police should instead require them to attend court on the next available day. If there is no dispute about the plea, the matter can be disposed of there and then, possibly no more than 24 hours after the offence. In many straightforward cases, this must be the most effective way of delivering justice. Many others, however, will just not be suitable for disposing of immediately, and it is for these cases that the intro-

duction of statutory "early administrative hearings" is particularly welcome.

This procedure has been pioneered over the past few years in Bexley Magistrates' Court in South London. The aim is to ensure that the parliamentary steps, such as legal aid applications and requests to the Crown Prosecution Service for disclosure of evidence are taken quickly, instead of weeks after the decision to prosecute has been taken. This, with the proposal that the "case management" role should be placed in the hands of the justices' clerk, will go far towards ensuring that the commitment to justice without delay enshrined in Magna Carta actually has some meaning.

The introduction of an enforceable timetable system should transform the role of the magistrate.

Magistrates' courts have become infinitely more sophisticated tribunals over the past few years, combining the local knowledge and common sense of the JPs with the professional expertise of their clerks. It is this mix of qualities that makes them equal to the task of identifying those cases for which jury trial is appropriate, taking into account the likely consequences for the defendant of a conviction among other relevant factors.

The Narey report rightly identifies changes to the right of trial procedure as having potential for substantial savings. But the proposals to cut delay and court appearances for each defendant will also mean less spending, a prospect likely to gladden the heart of any future Home Secretary, whichever party holds power after May.

The author is Clerk to the South Devon Justices and a member of the Council of the Justices' Clerks' Society.

The Labour contenders

SPECULATION is becoming feverish over how an incoming Labour government would fill its law officer posts. The latest rumour is that Peter Goldsmith, QC, former Bar chairman, will be brought into the Lords, where he could be a contender, along with Lord Williams of Mostyn, for Attorney-General.

Mr Goldsmith is saying little, except that he would be happy to play his part in public service. And if the Tories pull it off against the odds, who would replace Lord Mackay of Clashfern as Chancellor? The obvious contender is Sir Patrick Mayhew. A more imaginative choice would be Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC, Bar chairman turned NatWest chairman.

● SIGNS that the Law Society ructions of the past two years may be dying down. Robert Sayer, Vice-President of the Law Society last year to Martin Mears, has decided to throw in his lot with Philip Symcox, Vice-President, and Michael Mathews, the Deputy Vice-President. So he will not fight Mr Symcox for the presidency, although Mr Mears still plans to mount his own campaign.

Money matters HOW DO British law firms react to the news (The Times

INS AND OUTS

April 10) that American law firms are seeking three acres of space in London, enough to house more than 300 lawyers?

Anthony Salz, senior partner at Freshfields, is putting on a brave front. "It seems to confirm that the US firms recognise London is a very important place to be," he says. "The fact that the Americans are here is not a problem, so long as we are competing on a level playing field."

There's the rub: the huge

gap in salary levels between the English and the Americans appear to tilt the balance.

Leading question

NEW guidance on preparing witness statements and dealing with witnesses in civil cases has been drawn up by the Bar Council, which highlights the fine line between testing a witness's recollection of events and coaching.

"At the risk of stating the

obvious," the guidelines say, "this is a difficult area, calling for the exercise of careful judgment." Though a barrister must not "practise or coach a witness in relation to evidence", he or she can give general advice about giving evidence as well as "testing a witness's recollection robustly to ascertain the quality of his evidence".

The guidelines summarise: "... There is a distinction, when interviewing a witness, between questioning him closely in order to enable him to present his evidence fully and accurately or in order to test the reliability of his evidence (which is permissible) and questioning him with a view to encouraging the witness, to alter, massage or obscure his real recollection (which is not)."

More free lawyers

THE Bar Pro Bono Unit has been inundated with calls since the publicity over its first anniversary. But in all the praise for the profession's initiative, the 25-year-old Free Representation Unit has been almost overlooked. Through the unit, Bar students take on tribunal cases. Last year, it provided help in 1,500 cases, including almost 900 industrial tribunal cases, all on a voluntary basis.

● FRU, 0171-831 0822; Bar Pro Bono Unit, 0171-831 9711. Details of Solicitors Pro Bono Groups: Tony Willis at Clifford Chance, 0171-600 1000

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Putting on the glitz



Fashion, law-style

SCANTILY CLAD women are not usually associated with accountants but the litigation support unit at the chartered accountants Clark Whitehill broke ground in its corporate entertaining when it offered its women lawyer clients a more colourful kind of hospitality. Mark Ladd, a partner in the firm, set up a fashion show and lunch with Cerruti 1881 and Escada. The event attracted 50 women lawyers — and there wasn't a dark suit, ruffled white blouse or long skirt to be seen.

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BERWIN LEIGHTON

James Morton outlines the case for a museum of old-fashioned justice in central England

Dare you take your child to this museum?

As I arrived, the jury was filing back into the old Shire Hall on High Pavement, Nottingham. The jurors had agreed a verdict — guilty of sexual discrimination. The 14-year-old girl sitting in what looked like a county court judge's robes "sentenced" the defendant to a fine of £15,000.

Everyone agreed with the decision, then the jurors, counsel and defendant, took turns in sitting in the judge's chair before the facilitator handed them back their teacher. From the shrieks of delight as they were ushered out, it was clear that a good time had been had by all.

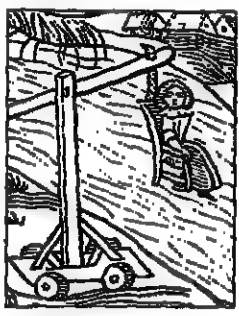
The Galleries of Justice, which opened in the refurbished courtrooms and prison cells at Shire Hall at Easter, 1995, cater especially for schools and organisations wanting to give young people the chance to be involved in trials and both the criminal and civil justice systems in a hands-on way. Every-

one — if only as a heckler because there was little order in court in the 18th century — has some sort of part in the script. And very popular it is proving with schools from as far away as Birkenhead, Merseyside. The very young have trials based on *Alice in Wonderland* and *Goldilocks*. There is a Christmas programme and a Victorian childhood programme for the modest fee of £2.95 a child. For the older children, there is a scripted version of trials for sexual and racial discrimination.

The Galleries also run courses for sixth forms with debates on capital punishment and the prob-

lems of HIV infection and for teacher-trainee colleges with courses on the problems of bullying and drugs. There is a full backup of education packs. Boots, the Nottingham-based pharmaceutical giant, will provide financial assistance for qualifying schools.

Depending on the time of year, school visitors may outnumber the walk-in public. Those — 70 per cent — who pay at the door get a tour of crime and punishment throughout the centuries, which should certainly not last less than two hours and a good deal more if you wish to linger. After a visit to watch a trial by ordeal, it is into the beautifully restored old criminal court where the clock has been stopped at 11.15, the time the last trial ended. There is a trial from 1832 and everyone is found guilty. Visitors are given a numbered ticket, which can be matched against various 19th-century villains and their punishments, before they go down into the cells.



From a time when justice took a bath

to meet one of the many volunteers and part-time staff in the form of Charlie, who has a small room decked out as a Victorian jailer's room.

He says: "They have to come through that gate. And they are terrified. I just look at them and dare them to cross through until I say so. They'll just stand there. Of course, if there are children, it's a different matter."

Once he has allowed them into his sanctuary, he is a mine of information on prison and local history. It was from here that the prisoners were sent to the prison hulks to await transportation. And



For modern youngsters, the stocks can be as much fun for the victim as for anyone else

it is here that one Australian visitor was enchanted to find that one of her ancestors is featured in the exhibition of 19th-century punishment. Visitors can also go into the death cell to listen to a commentary by Syd Derrley, a former hangman, and to stand under a reconstructed gallows.

Afterwards, there is a chance to vote on the restoration of capital punishment. Karen Wier, head of marketing, says: "It runs about 50-50, but soon after we opened, there was a series of child murders when the pro-hanging vote rose to more than 70 per cent."

But there is far more for the

visitor than the macabre. Last year the Galleries were awarded a £4.2 million grant from the national lottery and this year they received the Calouste Gulbenkian award for outstanding achievement for museums. In 1998, the first part of phase 2 will open to incorporate the restored 1808 bath-house and laundry and the 1833 women's prison, along with a network of caves discovered in the excavations beneath the courts.

Easter 1999 should see the opening of a Discovery Centre, designed primarily for educational use.

There is now a Friends of the Galleries. The first meeting in

February attracted more than 60 people — from retired and present judges and magistrates to electricians — of whom 65 per cent signed up to offer financial or tangible support. "Friends," says Mrs Wier, "can be involved as much or as little as they like."

For further information, contact the Galleries of Justice, Shire Hall, High Pavement, Lace Market, Nottingham NG1 1HN (0115-452 0555). The Galleries are open from Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 6pm from April to September and to 5pm for the rest of the year. They are closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Entry: £4.25 adults, £2.95 for 14-year-olds; concessions for groups and schools.

Women making a difference

Frances Gibb announces the winners of the achievement contest

Janet Gaymer, an employment law partner with the City law firm Simmons & Simmons, won the Times Woman of Achievement Award on Saturday in a strong field of nominations.

Mrs Gaymer, who flew in from Brussels to receive her award at the Third Woman Lawyer conference, is highly regarded, both for her work in employment law and generally in the profession. One of her nominators said: "She has totally changed the culture within the firm towards equal opportunities, including maternity leave."

Mrs Gaymer has chaired the Employment Lawyers Association, while remaining, as a nominator put it, "unstinting in advising and supporting women solicitors in relation to employment problems".

The runner-up was Judith Mayhew, director of education and training and also an employment lawyer at Wilde Sapte. She recently became the first woman leader of the City of London Corporation in its 1,100-year history.

Elpha Le Cointe received the award on behalf of Pump Court, in the Temple, the chambers winning the group award for the firm, chambers or department contributing most to equal opportunities. The set, founded in 1978, has pioneered equality policy and practice, and has its own equality officer and procedures for tackling grievances and recruitment.

Runner-up was Davies Arnold Cooper, the City law firm that has introduced a career path for legal executives, allowing them to rise to partnership status.

Two special Lifetime Achievement Awards were created to acknowledge the outstanding work of two women in the law: Dame Mary Arden, the High Court judge who chairs the Law Commission and is president of the Association of Women Barristers; and Helena Kennedy, QC, the radical barrister, broadcaster and writer, and Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University.



Gaymer: overall winner



Le Cointe: group award



Kennedy: outstanding

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PRIVATE CLIENT - IN-HOUSE
1 to 3 Years' experience
Our client, an established trust company specialising in offshore company trust and fund administration, is seeking a junior lawyer to work with its managing director. The work will include a wide variety of private client issues, including the establishment of trusts, probate and tax. The ideal candidate will have gained good experience in these areas whilst in private practice, and should have the ability to communicate often complicated legal issues to clients. Ref: T11580J

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
2 to 5 Years' experience
A leading City practice with an unparalleled record of growth in the last five years requires an additional senior assistant for the IT/Media and Communications Group. Work will involve acquisition of computer systems, support for corporate transactions, outsourcing IT and telecommunication systems, internet, electronic commerce and telecommunications contracts. The firm acts for a large number of household IT/Telecoms/Computer Companies. Premium salary and prospects available. Applicants will be considered from industry and private practice. Ref: T8805C

CORPORATE/TRUSTS - IN-HOUSE
3 Years+ experience
Major international bank with a number of overseas offices requires a lawyer to head a team handling a mixture of company and trusts work. Candidates must have a good grounding of both these areas gained from either an in-house or private practice background. Work will include reviewing the business and fiduciary obligations of directors, all aspects of off-shore trusts and private banking work. Relocation assistance. Ref: T11465E

LITIGATORS
4 to 7 Years' experience
...are sought by this City firm. You should have had some experience of employment related litigation as this will form the majority of your work. Pure employment specialists with a litigation background will also be considered as a thorough understanding and familiarity of litigation procedure is absolutely essential. It is understood by the partnership that lawyers in this level are seeking definite career prospects and so this is a very genuine move in that direction. The firm is a leader in the field of employment therefore the calibre of instructions is high. T11741G

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For an application form and further details, please contact Administration on 0171 332 1696.

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LITIGATION LAWYERS

Allen & Overy is one of the UK's leading international law firms with offices in 15 major financial centres. Due to the continued growth and development of our litigation practice a number of career opportunities have arisen.

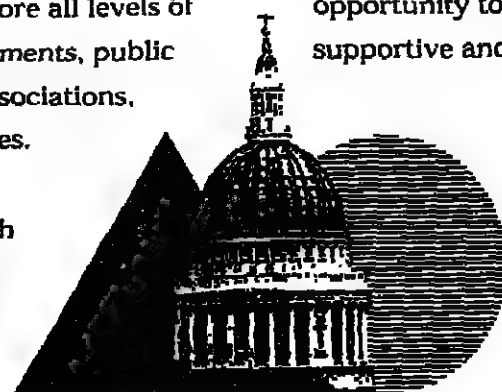
We deal with every form of dispute before all levels of courts and tribunals and act for governments, public and private institutions, professional associations, private individuals and regulatory bodies.

We are looking to expand our team with first rate lawyers who have up to three

years' post-qualification experience with a leading firm, including at least one lawyer with substantial experience of ADR.

We can offer you a wide variety of quality work and the opportunity to make full use of your potential in a supportive and friendly environment.

If you would like to be considered, please write with full CV to: Penny Targett, Allen & Overy, One New Change, London EC4M 9QQ.



ALLEN & OVERY

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SOLICITORS

Shoosmiths & Harrison is one of the largest and most successful law firms in the UK outside the City of London. With offices in several locations throughout England, we are among the most progressive of UK practices, with a success based on an uncompromising approach to the excellence of legal services.

We are looking for 2 first rate lawyers to join this innovative and dynamic practice.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LAWYER

With between 2 and 4 years qualification experience in a major firm, the successful applicant will be able to demonstrate an impeccable record of having dealt with high quality and complex work.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION LAWYER

With between 2 and 3 years qualification experience in a major firm, the successful applicant will demonstrate an excellent track record.

Good quality work and a competitive remuneration package will be offered to the right candidates.

Applications in writing including full career history to:

Chris Hill
Shoosmiths & Harrison
Bloxxam Court
Corporation Street
Rugby, Warks CV21 2DU

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

SINGAPORE PROJECTS

A global leader in project finance and one of New York's most profitable firms, this client is putting together a large US/UK legal team to be based in Singapore. It seeks UK lawyers with 2-6 years' relevant project experience. Exceptional quality work across South East Asia is on offer along with full New York rates and expense benefits. (Ref: 9499)

TELECOMS

One of the UK's most successful multi-national companies, our client seeks a telecommunications lawyer with 3-5 years' experience of commercial and regulatory work. Pre-qualified are a thorough knowledge of the telecoms regime and the enthusiasm to assist in developing the practice further. Client list, which includes many UK and foreign lawyers in the UK telecoms industry, confirms to expand space. (Ref: 9308)

BANKING & FINANCE

City firm with pre-eminent reputation in the media and telecoms sector seeks communications lawyer with 3-5 years' experience of commercial and regulatory work. Pre-qualified are a thorough knowledge of the telecoms regime and the enthusiasm to assist in developing the practice further. Client list, which includes many UK and foreign lawyers in the UK telecoms industry, confirms to expand space. (Ref: 9308)

RETAIL/FASHION/BUCKS

A lawyer with between 1 and 3 years' general commercial experience is sought by this young, dynamic company. The role will be as a sole legal advisor to a small group of companies, advising on commercial contracts, marketing and advertising issues, retail law, employment and IP. A forthright independent manner is required with the desire to be closely involved in the business of this growing company. It is a very fast, relaxed environment in congenial surroundings. (Ref: 9492)

TAX

Pre-eminent Tax Department in leading City firm seeks academically strong junior solicitor. A minimum of six months post qualification experience is preferred, although exceptional newly qualified will also be considered. Exciting opportunity to join a highly regarded team serving a first rate corporate client base. An ambitious, proactive and energetic personality is of utmost importance. (Ref: 9507)

For further information on private practice vacancies in London or abroad please contact: Yvonne Smyth or Andy Golding (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-377 0510 (0171-586 8993 evenings/weekends). For in-house vacancies please contact our Senior Industry Consultant Lisa Hicker on 0171-377 0510 (0171-642 5237 evenings/weekends). Alternatively write to them at Zarak Macrae Branner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PF. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail yvonne@zmb.co.uk for vacancies in the North, please contact Lindsay Sandford or Andrew Russell in Manchester on 0161-238 4906 (01433-650404 evenings/weekends) or write to them at ZMB North, Portland Tower, Portland Street, Manchester M1 3LF. Confidential fax 0161-238 4910. E-mail lindsay@zmb.co.uk

In-House • Is it time for your first move?
London-Practice

IT/Commercial c.2-4 yrs
London-Dynamic IT co. seeks outgoing young lawyer to join growing legal team and handle a broad range of commercial and IT work. This is an ideal first in-house move.

Co/Com 3-6 yrs
London-Leading blue chip multinational seeks high calibre corp/com lwr to handle top quality int'l work within front-line team.

Co/Com 2-4 yrs
Surrey-Top multinational seeks ambitious corp/com lawyer for front-line role. This is an exciting opportunity in a dynamic company for an adaptable lawyer. Some overseas travel.

EC Lawyer 5 yrs+
Herts-Exciting opportunity with expanding global corporation as European Legal & Regulatory Affairs Director, working closely with the co.'s subsidiaries across Europe.

Property Lawyer c.1 yr
London-High profile property co seeks young lawyer to manage large property portfolio. Excellent opportunity for first in-house move.

Engineering Co. to £50k
S.W. London-Well regarded engineering contractor seeks sole lawyer with sound contracting experience with an engineering or construction contractor. Major projects.

Global Commercial to £55k
London-Great role for bright commercial lawyer, 2+ yrs exp with young, lively team at high-tech co dealing with major int'l contract and some JV's. Travel-Europe.

Aberdeen to £45k
Commercial lawyer to join small legal team at prestigious engineering co. handling construction/engineering contracts and JV's.

Employee Benefits 1-4 yrs
Great role with specialist co. that advises on, devise & markets executive incentive scheme. Specialist experience not essential.

Tax & Trusts c.2 yrs
Opportunity for solicitor with onshore and offshore trusts & tax-planning exp to join dynamic trust company.

We encounter many candidates who have never made a move since they joined their firm. Perhaps you are one of them and are nervous about making the break. You've made friends, you feel established and you have a strong sense of loyalty towards your existing employer. But are you completely happy? Is your workload too heavy or the expectations placed on you too great? Is the supervision insufficient? Are you still treated like a trainee? For the first time in your life it is up to you to make a positive move. We are here to give you the opportunity to see if life is better elsewhere.

Current new instructions which might interest you are:

- **SOLICITOR PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY** 1-3yrs
Major Holborn based firm with personable reputation
- **FAMILY** 3yrs+
Rare opportunity in this go-ahead West End firm.
- **EMPLOYMENT** NQ-3yrs
Covent Garden firm seeking top calibre, bright lawyer
- **CORPORATE** 1-4yrs
Excellent prospects in City and West End firms.
- **FINANCIAL SERVICES KNOW-HOW** 2-5 yrs
Interesting move with regular hours away from fee-earning.
- **CORPORATE TAX** NQ-3yrs
Diverse client base offers varied and interesting work.
- **PROPERTY** 18mths-3yrs
Well respected firm with a flourishing Property team.
- **PROPERTY LITIGATION** 6mths-4yrs
Superb career move to prestigious department in City firm.
- **IT** 6 months-2yrs
Leading firm offers fantastic prospects.

For more information, please contact Caroline Fish (Practice) or Susan Hall (In-House) on 0171 430 1711 or write to Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6SN. Fax 0171 831 4186.

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GRAHAM GILL & YOUNG

0171 430 1711

CHAMBERS
PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

33 LONG LANE LONDON EC1A 9HL TEL: 0171 402 8841 (FAX: 0171 209 1723)

The Broad View

A two-year qualified commercial lawyer was approached by headhunters on behalf of a well-known litigation firm seeking to beef up its fledgling corporate department. He wasn't contemplating a move, but he went to see the firm and in due course received a job offer. At this point he hesitated. Should he take the first job offered, without even looking at alternatives?

The headhunters tried to persuade him that the job was ideal. He realised, however, that their advice was partial. Being paid in advance to find suitable candidates, they owed a duty to their client not to offer these candidates to other employers. They would be constrained from discussing other vacancies with the candidates until the job was filled.

To make matters even more awkward for the headhunters, many vacancies which they handle in private practice are relatively unattractive. The better vacancies, which can be easily filled, are placed with recruitment agencies, or are advertised in the press. Only when these methods have failed, will employers instruct headhunters - a more costly step usually entailing a substantial payment up-front.

The two-year qualified solicitor came to us, therefore, and attended interviews with several leading commercial firms. Not surprisingly, he took a job with one of these instead.

Michael Chambers
CHAMBERS DIRECTORY
Our legal directory is available from Chambers, (01403 - 710 971)

INDUSTRY Sonya Rayner, Morwenna Lewis

Property: City
Property/construction co seeks for lawyer with min 6 months' exp. Workload includes residential development and commercial property management.

Engineering/Construction: London
Commercial lawyer with min 3 years' exp reqd to act as sole legal adviser by construction company. You should have sound drafting skills and will also advise on JVs, employment and IP matters.

Oil/Gas: Aberdeen
Solicitor with 3-5 years' exp reqd by this int'l group providing various services in the energy sector. Applicants should have a good commercial background and enjoy drafting and negotiating contracts.

PRIVATE PRACTICE SOUTH: Helen Mills, Aileen Shepherd, Noel Murray
LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson NORTH: Sukh Bahra, Paul Thomas

Corporate: US Firm
London office of leading East Coast firm which encourages a 'sweet shop' culture offers 2-4 year qual sol cross-frontier transactional work of highest quality.

Employment: EC4
Niche media firm seeks 4-7 year qualified employment lawyer to boost their recently established and successful employment team. Genuine partnership prospects.

Corporate Partner: US Firm
Mid-level partners at this leading firm, one of the most profitable firms outside New York, earn £500,000. Senior solicitor sought for London MNP.

Banking/Insolvency Partner: City
High profile, profitable commercial firm with recognised insolvency expertise seeks banking/insolvency partner with strong banking contacts.

Commercial Property: City
c. 60 partner firm with strong property reputation seeks 2-3 year qualified solicitor for acquisitions, disposals, landlord & tenant and corporate support.

Commercial: North West
Major int'l co needs lawyer with 6 months-2 years' experience. Broad commercial workload includes drafting agreements, product liability and M&A work. A scientific background would help.

Leisure: London
High leisure co needs a 2-6 year qual solicitor to handle comm contracts, lit, conveyancing and employment. Excellent drafting skills essential.

Newly Qualified: Midlands
Opportunity for recently qualified commercial solicitor to join consumer goods company and undertake a range of work including commercial contracts, employment, consumer and property matters.

Matrimonial Partner: City
Matrimonial solicitor with at least 3 years' exp (including high value divorce) and a part following sought by this small City firm to join as a partner.

Commercial Litigation: West End
Friendly West End commercial firm seeks 0-2 year qualified litigation solicitor to assist a partner on a range of contentious work for commercial clients.

EC/Competition Law: Birmingham
One of the leading commercial firms with a reputation in the field of EU/Competition law seeks a solicitor with 2-5 years' exp to join existing team.

Construction: Manchester
3-6 yr qualified solicitor sought by leading commercial firm to work on major PFI and infrastructure projects. Excellent package offered.

Legal Researcher
Chambers' legal directory needs qualified lawyer to join team researching the legal profession. Ring Reena SenGupta: 0171-606 1300.

Coutts
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

Coutts & Co is part of Coutts Group, the global private banking arm of the NatWest Group, and as such it benefits from being part of one of the world's largest and strongest financial institutions.

Coutts & Co delivers a wide range of wealth management services and products to its clients, including retail banking, investment management, trust and fiduciary services, financial planning, tax services and insurance services. It is also active in commercial banking and in institutional custody, settlement and trustee services.

With such a broad portfolio of business capabilities, Coutts & Co is looking to recruit an additional lawyer to be part of its Legal Team. Reporting to the General Counsel, the individual will be involved in a wide range of product development and legal support activities, including:

- Development of sophisticated financial products in the capital markets for delivery to the private client
- Negotiation and support of institutional custody, sub-custody and correspondent banking agreements
- Enhancement of legal support to the client teams
- Close liaison with external counsel
- Work on special projects and initiatives
- Participation in the wider, international Coutts Group legal sector

The role is ideal for junior lawyers with capital markets, investment or general banking experience. The individual will be challenged quickly to take on responsibility and use initiative and in return the role will be high in importance and profile.

Remuneration will be competitive and commensurate with experience, and will include normal banking benefits. Coutts & Co is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Coutts & Co is regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority for investment business.

Please contact Alison Barrett or Nicholas Robbins on 0171 417 1400 (evenings/weekends 0171 386 8699) or write to them at the address below. Confidential fax: 0171 417 1444. Email: alisonb@garfieldrobbins.co.uk. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis - any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to Garfield Robbins.



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LEGAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
LONDON • LEEDS

Royex House,
Aldermanbury Square
London EC2V 7HR
Tel: 0171-417 1400
Fax: 0171-417 1444

A FRESH START

PENSIONS

An exciting opening has arisen for a pensions lawyer with 1-3 years' exp to join this top 15 City firm. You can expect a good spread of work and excellent prospects, as well as the chance to experience a wide employee benefit/retirement provision work. You will be acting for some of the leading corporate clients. Ref: T1155

CAPITAL MKTS/DERIVATIVES Tokyo To £Excellent
A rare chance to wake up in the Land of the Rising Sun for a capital markets lawyer and a derivatives lawyer with 4+ years' exp at this very major international investment house. You will be paid very handsomely, allowing you to enjoy the experience of working in Japan. Ref: T34625

PROPERTY FINANCE To £60,000
This is an excellent opportunity for a property finance lawyer with 4-5 years' exp to continue to act for an impressive array of foreign banking clients. You will find yourself in a perfect position to move into partnership very quickly if you are adaptable and entrepreneurial. Ref: T19794

CORPORATE TAX To £46,000
When you work for one of the biggest and best firms in the City, what should you expect? Great work for blue-chip clients, naturally, as well as quality training and a recognised career path. This is just the start as this very friendly top 20 firm that now needs a corporate tax lawyer with 1-3 years' exp. Ref: T39507

CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL To £40,000
This very highly regarded medium-sized firm is the perfect place for a young corporate/commercial lawyer with 0-3 years' exp to lay the foundations for a great career. You will enjoy a very broad spread of work in a department known for employment, IP and sports-related matters. Ref: T39491

NON-CONTENTIOUS IP To £39,000
This leading medium-sized City firm has a reputation for offering clients a highly professional but also very personal service. If you are the kind of lawyer who can do this and have 2-3 years' exp for a job that entails non-contentious IPIT work and some general commercial matters, this could be for you. Ref: T39411

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT Essex To £Partnership
A senior lawyer is needed to take on the property development practice in this regional firm's Essex office. You will have 4+ years' exp and ideally a following. In return you will work unsupervised on a string of heavyweight development projects and help build the practice to new heights. Ref: T39396

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Sarah David, Deborah Dalgleish or Kate Sutcliffe (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 4062 (0181-789 7704 or 0181-520 6559 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JF. Confidential fax: 0171-431 6394.



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Sheffield International Limited are international headhunters specialising in Global Investment Banking and Legal Sectors. We wish to further strengthen our existing research team by recruiting an additional research consultant.

The successful candidate is likely to be either a recent graduate, in their early to mid twenties or a solicitor or barrister with approximately 2 years PQE. The successful candidate will have a good quality degree, be self motivated, hard working and a team player. In addition to good listening skills he or she will have a well focused, energetic and enquiring mind.

Please apply in writing to the:

Head of Research
Sheffield International Limited
Aldermay House
15 Queen Street
London EC4N 1TX

The Chambers of Mr Alan Rawley Q.C.

35, Essex Street, Temple, London WC2R 3AR
Tel: 0171 353 6381 Fax: 0171 583 1786
DX 351 London

Applications are invited from experienced Pension practitioners to join our busy Pensions team.

Chambers require a junior of more than 5 years' call or comparable experience.

Please apply in writing with a CV to Nigel Inglis-Jones Q.C. by the 25th May 1997.

The Chambers of
Mr John Goldring Q.C.
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pleased to announce that

Mr Jack Kesbey

formerly Head of Administration at
Crown Prosecution Service (Central
Casework) has joined their clerking
team.

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JUNIOR BANKING AND STRUCTURED FINANCE PARTNERS

£280,000 - £400,000

With offices in all the major financial centres, our Client is a US firm in London with a premier banking and finance practice acting for the world's leading commercial and investment banks and major companies investing or raising capital internationally. The London office seeks to appoint its first English partners to enhance its ability to handle English law transactions for its established banking clients across Europe.

The firm is highly profitable but remains incredibly collegiate. It is focused but without aggression; it takes a long-term view of its growth in the London market; it is fiercely proud of a culture more typically English than American. All of this goes to explain why not a single partner has left it to join another law firm in over a decade!

You will be a partner in a City firm – probably made up in the last five years – and attracted by the opportunity to create a London based MNP for a major international firm with the support of an existing London US law capability and a thriving cross-border finance practice. Your ability and reputation will justify a worldwide equity partnership in one of the world's leading firms together with the associated financial rewards.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Gareth Quarry, Adrian Fox or Kate Sutcliffe our retained consultants on 0171-405 6062 (0181-789 9933 evening/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

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FLEMINGS

Assistant Managers - Compliance & Legal

Luxembourg

Founded in 1873, Flemings has over a 100 years investment management expertise, supported by a global network of offices in 40 countries. Fleming Fund Management (Luxembourg) SA is the centre for the European Asset Management Division, responsible for the administration of Luxembourg domiciled investment funds as well as the supervision of the marketing and distribution of products throughout Europe. Due to continued growth and success 2 further individuals are required in the following areas:

Compliance Officer

As a key member of the management team in this expanding business, your prime responsibility will be to enable designated departments within the European Asset Management Division (EAMD) to comply with all relevant local regulations. This will involve providing advice to ensure that satisfactory operating procedures and controls are in place and appropriately documented. Accordingly, you will need to establish and maintain relationships with various departments to facilitate a thorough understanding of compliance needs, develop compliance monitoring and training programmes and liaise with external/internal auditors. Candidates require:

- At least 3 years' UK or Luxembourg compliance/regulatory experience
- Fluency in French advantageous
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills

In addition to technical expertise, a sense of humour and commercial acumen are essential. In return attractive remuneration packages and relocation assistance are offered. To discuss either opportunity in more detail please contact Claire Hine LLB (Hons). Alternatively, send your CV to the address below.

Reuter Simon
5 Bream's Buildings
Chancery Lane
London EC4A 3DY
Tel: 0171 405 4181
Fax: 0171 242 1261
E-Mail: re@psd.co.uk
Internet: www.psd.co.uk

PSD

Reuter Simon
Legal Recruitment

Legal Adviser

With responsibility for a variety of legal issues relating to the expansion of the business into new markets, you will be expected to provide expert advice to management and the distribution arms of the company, so that clear guidelines are produced to cover local regulatory rules. You will also deal with regulatory authorities to ensure that the necessary authorisation to do business in different jurisdictions is maintained. Reviewing marketing and other documentation, as well as drafting and negotiating commercial legal contracts will be within your remit. Whilst you will report to the Head of Legal Services, you will be instrumental in the professional development of other members of the team. Candidates require:

- 2-3 years' post-qualification experience in corporate/commercial law
- Financial services experience preferable
- Working knowledge of French or German beneficial

US Investment Bank: Lawyer London

£ Outstanding Package

Our client is a leading US investment bank with a rapidly expanding international presence. Its London based international subsidiary is playing a pivotal role in this expansion and is experiencing a significant increase in its activity.

An outstanding opportunity has arisen to join its recently created legal department which handles a wide range of work from emerging markets and derivatives through to corporate finance and corporate legal matters.

Your profile:

- Lawyer with excellent academic credentials and 4-5 years relevant post-qualification experience. This experience is likely to have been gained in a leading City practice or possibly in another investment bank.
- First rate technical skills with an ability to exercise careful judgement and meticulous attention to detail under pressure.
- Strong communication skills coupled with the stamina to survive in a highly pressurised environment.

To attract the right individual to this challenging post a very competitive compensation package will be offered.

In the first instance you should contact Catherine Brown at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH, telephone 0171 269 2484. Fax 0171 831 6662.



Michael Page Legal
Specialists in Legal Recruitment

IN-HOUSE ENGLAND

► **Telecoms - Head of Legal W. Sussex**
Rapidly expanding telecommunications company is seeking a senior lawyer, 7-15 years qualified, to head a small department. Regulatory experience is essential. Ref: 2967RM

► **International Corporate London**
This diversified UK blue chip multinational seeks a 3 to 5 year qualified solicitor from one of the top City firms to join a small HQ legal team handling acquisitions, disposals, JV's and other general corporate transactions. Ref: 2968RM

► **Investment Management London**
This leading US investment bank requires a 3 to 7 year qualified lawyer with experience in negotiating investment management documentation, advising on SRO rules and other issues involved in marketing investment services across Europe. Ref: 1911NT

► **Construction/Engineering Middlesbrough**
This joint venture construction company seeks a lawyer to be solely responsible for all its legal matters. The successful candidate is likely to have a minimum of 3 years experience including contracting, ideally from an engineering or construction background. Ref: 2969RM

► **Commercial South West**
This household name US multinational is looking to recruit a European qualified lawyer with around 6 years commercial and IP experience gained either in-house or from a well known firm. Another European language is essential. Ref: 2965NT

Contact Naveen Tuli or Rachael North

OVERSEAS

PRACTICE

Demand is growing all the time for English speaking lawyers in various parts of the world. Recently registered positions are in Melbourne, Ankara, Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai, Moscow and Budapest. So, if you are a corporate or banking lawyer wishing to look into the possibility of moving abroad, please telephone Daniel Lewis on 0171 831 3270.

IN-HOUSE

IT - European Counsel

Amsterdam, Munich or Paris
This dynamic and fast growing US software company seeks a 5-10 year qualified IT lawyer to assume responsibility for all its European legal affairs. Based in Amsterdam, Munich or Paris (at your preference), you will be qualified in mainland Europe and currently working in the High Tech or IT sector. Ref: 2964NT

► **IP Lawyer - Sports Switzerland**
This market leading sports company urgently requires an IP lawyer to undertake an international role. You will have between 2 and 6 years IP experience gained from a well known firm or company. Ref: 495NT

Contact Daniel Lewis or Naveen Tuli

PRIVATE PRACTICE

► **Fund Management/FSA City**
This is an excellent opportunity for a 6 month to 3 year qualified lawyer with fund management/FSA experience to join this well known commercial firm. The Group is expanding rapidly and the work covers all aspects. Ref: 1471JF

► **Patents Litigation West End**
Our client, a large West End commercial firm is seeking a patents litigator with around 4 years post qualification experience. The ideal candidate will have an engineering background but this is not essential. Ref: 2402JF

► **Comm Prop & Development Kent**
With over 20 partners and 100 fee earners this Kent practice is one of the region's heavyweights. They now have an opportunity for a commercial property lawyer with 4 or 5 years experience to join their team acting for major housebuilding clients. Ref: 1770AF

► **Employment Law South Coast**
Our client is one of the most respected of commercial practices in the South of England. There is now an excellent opportunity in the employment law department for a solicitor with between 2 and 5 years experience of contentious and non-contentious matters. Ref: 582AF

► **Oil & Gas City**
This medium sized firm with a strong and growing niche is now looking for a 1 to 3 year qualified individual with some relevant experience. Ref: 81LS

Contact Jane Foster, Andrea Field or Laurence Simons

LAURENCE SIMONS
International Legal Recruitment

Craven House, 121 Kingsway, London WC2B 6PA Tel +44 (0)171 831 3270, Fax +44 (0)171 831 4429
E-mail: laurence@laurencesimons.demon.co.uk

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2 Years+ Qualified

Lovell White Durrant's high profile and extremely successful pensions department continues to grow and attract much of the best pensions work in the City.

The vast majority of our work is referred to our pensions practice directly by some of the largest public and private pension schemes in the UK. In addition, we advise on the pensions aspects of corporate transactions for the firm's outstanding client list.

We now seek two first rate lawyers with at least two years' relevant pensions experience. You will join our cohesive team consisting of six partners and eleven assistants, including a dedicated knowhow lawyer.

At Lovell White Durrant, we can offer you work of the highest quality and, most importantly, genuine career prospects in a key practice area within the firm.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact our retained consultants Stephen Rodney or Greg Abrahams on 0171 405-6062 (0171 266-5601 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831-6394.

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CHAMBERS

BANKING & FINANCE

BANKING & FINANCE

Global Investment House to £70,000 + bonus: City

This leading global investment bank continues to grow from strength to strength. It provides a wide range of banking services to pre-eminent corporate and institutional clients.

The transaction management team is very highly regarded both internally and externally. It supports a wide variety of business areas including securitisation, structured finance, capital markets and derivatives.

As a result of outstanding levels of activity it seeks to recruit a number of dynamic lawyers to augment its already successful team. Ideal candidates will have gained 1-4 years' ppe with a major law firm or investment bank in either general banking work or some of the areas mentioned above. It is pre-requisite that individuals are committed team players and possess the ability to communicate effectively at all levels of seniority. Equally important is the desire to play a commercial role in the decision making process.

Chambers Banking & Finance recruit lawyers into banks and other financial institutions. For further information or for career advice, please ring Deborah Krienen or Stuart Morton on 0171 606 8844. Confidentiality is assured.

US Investment Bank to £70,000 + bonus: City

Our client is a pre-eminent force in global equity and debt issuance in both public and private markets. The bank combines in-depth industry experience with geographic and product specialisms to provide corporate and sovereign clients with comprehensive global coverage.

The centralised legal department is seeking a senior lawyer to head up the Fixed Income division within the department. With 5-8 years post-qualification experience gained in a City firm or other investment bank, ideal applicants will have a broad grounding in capital markets and derivative transactions.

The role will, however, encompass a full service to the division and may involve managing litigation, investigations and regulatory issues. A proactive approach will be highly valued by our client and a maths/economics background would be helpful as projects work will arise involving risk management issues.

Partner Moves

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Our client is a leading litigation and commercial practice with an outstanding reputation in the insurance market. The firm now seeks a commercial property partner to assist in the development of a small but busy department. Whilst some following would be useful, more importance will be given to proven entrepreneurial and leadership skills. An opportunity to make an impact.

EC/COMPETITION

Our client is leading international City law firm with an strong commitment to Competition law. A rare opening has arisen at partner level for a specialist in this field, preferably with regulatory experience. Whilst a client following is not necessary, you must be able to demonstrate client development skills and a proactive approach to your work. Would suit senior assistants looking for immediate partnership.

For further information in absolute confidence about the opportunities available to those seeking a partnership move, please contact Dominique Graham or Sophie Brooks, at Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Tel 0171 430 1711. Fax 0171 831 4186.

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0171 430 1711

c. £70,000 package
+ benefits

Services Plc

Central London

Company Lawyer

Critical role in influencing terms of business for this £550 million turnover group, which serves corporate customers in consumer and industrial markets and is poised for profitable growth. With low gearing, a strong market positioning and a blue-chip client base, the organisation has restructured some head office functions and is now seeking a commercially estate lawyer as part of the new team. Unusual opportunity for extensive contact with customers and operational management.

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FOOTBALL

Villa fine Bosnich for taking his leave

BY RICHARD HOBSON AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

MARK BOSNICH, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, has been fined the maximum two weeks' wages — around £15,000 — after leaving the Baseball Ground before the FA Cup final on Saturday in protest at being named as a substitute.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, met the player after training yesterday and said that Bosnich had been quick to apologise. However, while Little decided not to place him on the transfer-list, he is likely to give another first-team appearance to Michael Oakes, the former England Under-21 goalkeeper, against Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday.

"I have put my point of view across about what sort of reaction I expect when a player is left out of the side and Mark transgressed that," Little said. "I have not put him on the transfer-list because I am not in the habit of selling my best players. He remains one of the best goalkeepers in the country, but Oakes is catching up quickly."

The Premier League is likely to put back Middlesbrough's game against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane by 24 hours, to April 24, just two days after the FA Cup semi-final replay against Chesterfield, rather than extend the season beyond May 11. Middlesbrough, who are struggling to avoid relegation, already have four fixtures in the final nine days of the campaign.

If Chesterfield were delighted to equalise in the final minute of extra time in the Cup tie on Sunday, then their pleasure was shared by Leicester City, who face Middlesbrough in the Coca-Cola Cup final replay at Hillsborough tomorrow.

Simon Grayson, the Leicester defender, said: "It was the best result we could have

had. For Middlesbrough to have to play an extra half-hour of extra time and then suffer the deflation of conceding the goal in the last minute must have been devastating."

Four of the Leicester squad — Gary Parker, Neil Lennon, Kasey Keller and Grayson — missed training yesterday but are expected to be fit while Steve Walsh, the captain, has recovered from a toe injury.

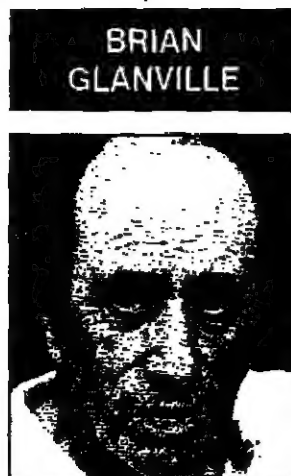
Bolton Wanderers and Wolverhampton Wanderers have been fined by the Football Association for their parts in a brawl, in which most of the 22 players became involved, during the Nationwide League first division match at Burnden Park in January. At an FA disciplinary hearing, the clubs admitted misconduct and failing to control their players.

Bolton were fined £40,000, £30,000 of it suspended until the end of next season, and Wolves were fined £30,000, with £22,500 suspended. It will not have lightened the mood of Mark McGhee, the Wolves manager, who yesterday continued to criticise Reading, his former club, for the treatment he received during and after the 2-1 defeat at Elm Park on Saturday.

McGhee, who made an acrimonious departure from Reading in December 1994, was jeered throughout the game and also heckled as he boarded the team coach on leaving the ground. "It was disgusting," he said. "I got no help from anyone at Reading, particularly those who could have helped me."

John Madejski, the Reading chairman, dismissed McGhee's claims. "Unfortunately, I didn't see Mark during the afternoon," he said. "This was not by intent but because I had too many things to do. I don't really want to get dragged into all this, it's absolutely, totally pathetic."

Continental leaders afflicted by serious weekend hangovers



Overseas View

Che strano questo calcio. Or, if you prefer, funny game, football. Make sense of these weekend results if you can:

Juventus, having outplayed Ajax in Amsterdam in the first leg of their European Cup semi-final last Wednesday, crashed 3-0 at home, in their detested Stadio Delle Alpi, to modest Udinese, missing two penalties in the process.

Borussia Dortmund, having beaten Manchester United at home in the other semi-final, lost 3-2 at Duisburg, their third Bundesliga defeat in the past five games.

Internazionale, managed by Roy Hodgson, soon off to Blackburn Rovers and under constant criticism in Italy, won the Milan derby 3-1, five days after a notable victory by the same score against AS Monaco in the UEFA Cup.

Barcelona's 5-2 victory at Atlético Madrid seemed almost commonplace by comparison, although you wonder how long Radi Antic, once a Luton Town player, will stay as Atlético manager before Jesús Gil y Gil, the president who eats managers for breakfast, sends him on his way.

Speaking of managers, Nils Liedholm, of Sweden, returned on Sunday as manager of AS Roma at the age of 74, though he sat in the stand and had Sella, until now the youth coach, on the bench.

Liedholm, or "The Baron", as he was nicknamed during his fine career in Italy as player, with AC Milan, and manager of Milan and AS Roma among others, replaced the Argentinian, Carlos



Highflying Ronaldo scored another hat-trick for Barcelona

Bianchi, last Tuesday. Bianchi, having won the Argentine title and the world club championship with Vélez Sarsfield, had consoled himself, when things went wrong earlier this season, that he could walk around Rome without being insulted.

No one will insult "The Baron", who won a championship with Roma but who was beaten, ironically, on Sunday, by a Parma team managed by the captain of that Roma side, Carlo Ancelotti. Yet another Argentinian, Hernan Crespo, scored the only goal.

But how did Juve lose? Both they and Udinese had a player sent off in the first half. Amoroso, 22, the Brazilian, put Udinese ahead from a

penalty. Of Juve's penalties, Vieri hit the underside of the bar while Zidane, had his saved by Turci.

Oliver Bierhoff, the Germany centre forward who scored the winner in the final of Euro 96 and almost joined Juve in the summer, headed his team's second goal.

So Ajax, like Manchester United, have been given new hope for the second leg of their European Cup semi-final next week, even though Ajax went down 2-0 away to PSV Eindhoven.

Hodgson's detractors say that he has lost the confidence of his players, who do not understand his tactics. It is true that Inter have shipped

much water this season, the central pairing of a four-in-line defence being especially fallible. In the previous Milan derby, Inter had been fortunate to get a point.

Maurizio Ganz, with a second-half header, scored yet again on Sunday. How glad Inter must be that he refused to let them sell him to Spain earlier this season. Ganz scored twice and made the other against AS Monaco, having scored all of Inter's three in the previous round against Anderlecht.

"Hodgson's in a better state of mind now — he knows he's going, so whether he wins or loses doesn't matter much," one Italian sports writer said after the derby, the start of which was delayed by a hail of missiles from the crowd. When the action did get under way, Paul Ince was in particularly fine form.

Otto Hitzfeld, the Dortmund manager, admitted defeat at Duisburg was a blow and that Dortmund

'Like Ajax, United have been given new hope for the second leg'

must now beat Bayern Munich, the Bundesliga leaders, this weekend to keep alive hopes of retaining the title. Eight players were missing against Duisburg, including the key midfielder man, Andreas Möller, who had flu.

Ronaldo, Barcelona's extremely expensive Brazilian purchase, scored another three goals in Madrid, one a penalty, and said: "We're getting better every game."

Will Barca really let him go to Lazio? And is there any truth in the tale that they would replace him with a far-less versatile Alan Shearer?

At the Ateneo Stadium in Mexico City, in front of a crowd of 100,000, Bora Milutinovic's Mexico turned up for their World Cup eliminator against the United States in Boston on Sunday by beating Jamaica 6-0, with three goals from Carlos Hermosillo. Milutinovic, who managed the United States team in the 1994 World Cup, should have the best of it.

RUGBY UNION

Sale seek to enhance European prospects

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SALE can confirm their grip on a place in the Heineken Cup next season if they sustain an unbeaten home record stretching back to September against Saracens tonight.

Clearly, they see it as an opportunity, since few concessions have been made to their hectic schedule; the only changes to the team that scored 52 points against Gloucester at the weekend see the restoration of John Mitchell and Murray Driver to the pack. Saracens may think the inclusion of two more New Zealanders does nothing to weaken their opponents.

Were Harlequins to lose their Courage Clubs Championship match to Bristol at the same time, Sale would be delighted, but that is less likely.

Sale, fourth in the first division, are one point ahead of Harlequins, who know only too well that Bristol are trying desperately to claw away from the play-off positions at the bottom of the table and hope that Simon Shaw, the England lock, will return from injury to help them.

Saracens had hoped that Michael Lynagh would have recovered from a hip injury but the Australian stand-off half needs more time; he is likely to play against Leicester on Saturday, leaving his club depending tonight on Andy Lee's ability to recover his goal-kicking form — only three of 19 attempts have found the target in the past two disappointing matches (against Harlequins and Wasps).

Charles Olney and Craig Yandell come into the pack for what will be Saracens' fourth game in 11 days; so far, all have been lost, a sequence that has scuppered their own European hopes.

Bristol's ambitions are more modest against a Harlequins team in which Jason Leonard and Laurent Benzeach, the international props, are rested; instead, Andy Mullins and Alan Ozdemir join Keith Wood, who faces another Irishman, Barry McConnell, in the Bristol front row.

Leicester, who play London Irish tomorrow, will be without Joel Stranksy. The South African stand-off damaged the bridge of his nose late in the defeat by Bath on Saturday and may well feel that the announcement by Bath of their new fitness coach is rubbing salt into the wound.

Bath have appointed Jim Blair, the Scot who contributed so much to New Zealand rugby between 1986 and 1991 and has continued his association with Auckland, the Super 12 champions.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Paul call-up has Bulls on horns of dilemma

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WITH three key forwards injured and another suspended, Bradford Bulls will have viewed Robbie Paul's call-up by New Zealand yesterday for his first international with mixed emotions. The Bradford captain will miss the Stones Super League games against Halifax Blue Sox and Sheffield Eagles before the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final against St Helens on May 3.

Paul is among the New Zealand substitutes for the match with Australia, in Sydney, on Friday week. His brother, Henry, of Wigan Warriors, will be at full back, provided that he recovers from injury. "It's a great honour for Robbie and ourselves, but so close to Wembley, the timing could have been better," a Bradford spokesman said.

Bradford, already without Jeremy Donougher and Warren Jowitt, with broken ankles, are waiting to learn if a fractured bone in his arm might also prevent Sonny Nickle being fit for the final. Brian McDermott is unavailable for another fortnight after his four-match ban for punching during the semi-final defeat of Leeds Rhinos.

St Helens lost their unbeaten league record in the match against Leeds last Friday, but they can move ahead of Bradford at the top for the first time tonight by inflicting a first loss on Salford by a margin of 13 or more points at Knowsley Road. Salford, themselves, will take over at the top if they achieve their sixth successive victory. Castleford Tigers, still without a win, are unlikely to move off the bottom tonight away to a resurgent Leeds side.

John Schuster, the Western Samoa goal-kicking centre, will be in plaster for up to six weeks after breaking a bone in his leg during Halifax's draw against London Broncos on Sunday. The best hope is that he will be available for the club's opening three world cup championship matches in Australia in June.

David Ward joined the list of early-season coaching casualties when he resigned yesterday after 24 years at Featherstone Rovers, who are one place off the bottom of the first division with one win.

The Rugby Football League (RFL) announced yesterday that the Challenge Cup final is already sold out, with guaranteed record receipts of more than £2 million. "The response to this year's competition has been overwhelming," Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, said. "This is wonderful news and confirms that the nation's interest in rugby league is growing."

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FAW meets to talk over Gould's future

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BOBBY GOULD'S future as manager of Wales will be discussed at an emergency meeting of the management committee of the Football Association of Wales (FAW) this evening. Gould has been accused by Nathan Blake, the Wales and Bolton Wanderers striker, of making racist remarks to him — claims which Gould has vigorously denied.

The seven-strong management committee will report its findings to the full FAW council tomorrow, although it is unlikely that Gould will lose his job yet. His contract expires in December, shortly after the conclusion of Wales's World Cup qualifying campaign.

Hull City, of the Nationwide League third division, have solved their financial crisis by selling Roy Carroll, the Northern Ireland goalkeeper, to Wigan Athletic for £350,000. The third division leaders have snapped up the highly-rated 19-year-old from under the noses of a host of FA Cup Premier League clubs, including Sunderland and Newcastle United.

Hull were desperate to pay their £250,000 tax bill after

appearing in the High Court last Wednesday, when they were given 28 days to find the money in order to avoid being wound up.

Terry Dolan, the Hull manager, who was forced to sell Dean Windass, the striker, to Aberdeen last season to escape the club's last winding-up petition, said: "By selling a player, we have again saved the club. I am staggered that we have had to sell Roy for just £350,000 when, in my opinion, he is worth at least £1 million."

Iain Munro was yesterday dismissed as manager of Raith Rovers, the struggling Scottish League premier division club. Munro took over in the autumn from Tommy McLean, who had held the post for just one week. A 5-0 defeat at Motherwell on Saturday left Raith nine points adrift at the bottom and virtual certainties for relegation. The club's directors asked Munro to resign, but when he refused, he was dismissed.

Steve Kirk and David Kirkwood, the club's player-coaches, will be in charge for the rest of the season.

EQUESTRIANISM

Badminton winner forced out by injury

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

MARK TODD, the dual Olympic three-day event champion from New Zealand, has withdrawn his 1996 Badminton winner, Bertie Blunt, from this year's event. The gelding has a leg injury.

Todd, who considers Bertie Blunt, 13, one of the best horses he has ridden, said yesterday: "He wasn't right at Brigstock last week so we had him checked by the vet. He's now gone back to his owners and will be off for a year."

Todd, 40, who will now ride either Broadcast News or Kayenn next month, has suffered a series of setbacks with Bertie Blunt since taking over the ride three years ago. At Burghley, in 1994, they were

faultless across country but were eliminated when Todd missed out a flag in the speed and endurance phase.

At Badminton, in 1995, where they were again clear across country, the horse failed the final inspection and was then removed from Todd's yard when he fell out with his former sponsors, Bond International, and spent much of 1995 in a field.

Last March, the horse's owners, Robert and Melita Howell, gave him back to Todd, who promptly won £24,000 at Badminton. But bad luck struck again when he went lame at Burghley in September after another copybook cross-country round.

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